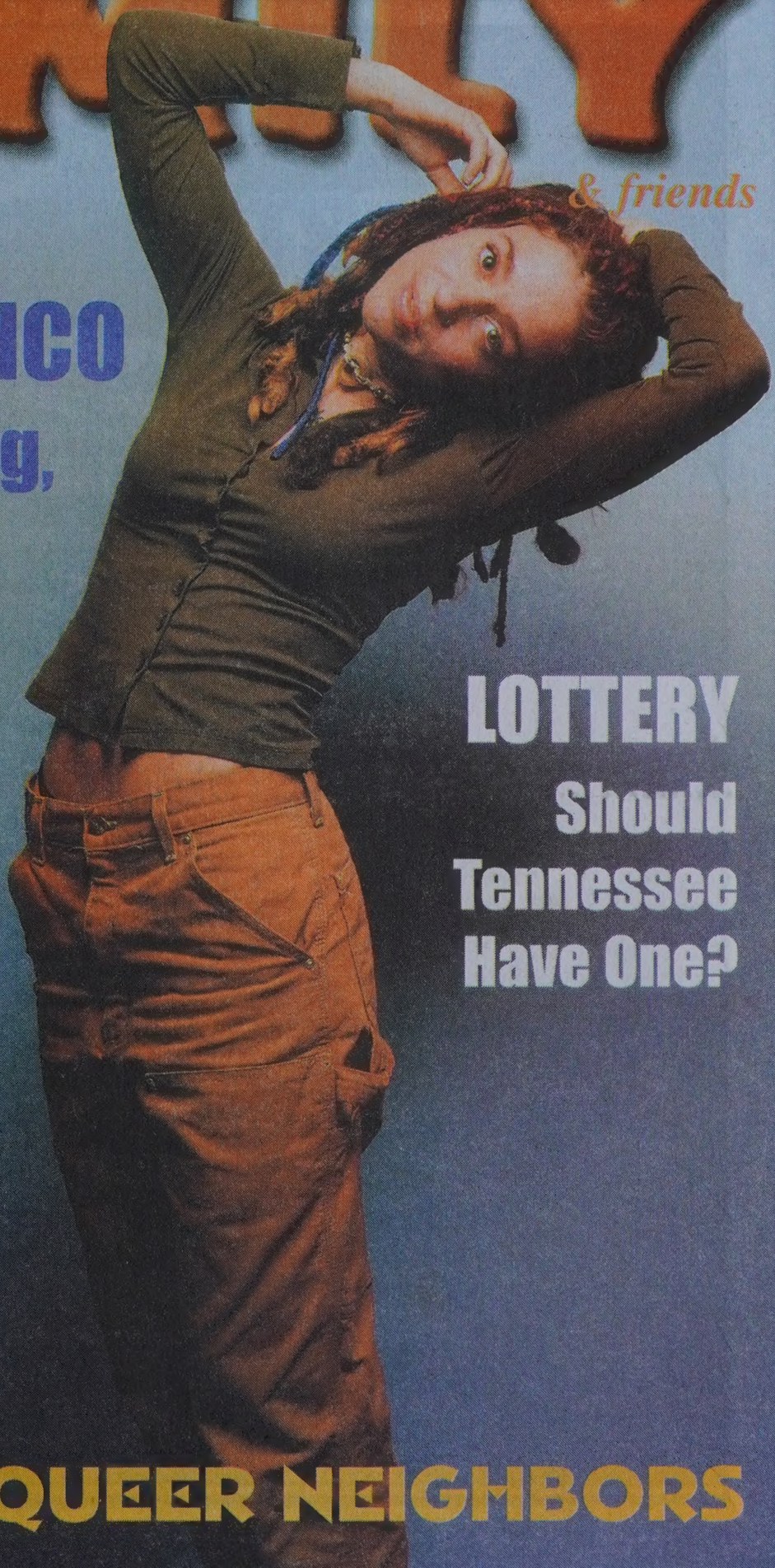
OCTOBER 2002

# FAMILY

& friends



## ANI DIFRANCO still shouting, laughing

## LOTTERY Should Tennessee Have One?

## NCOD Lots Of Ways To Celebrate!

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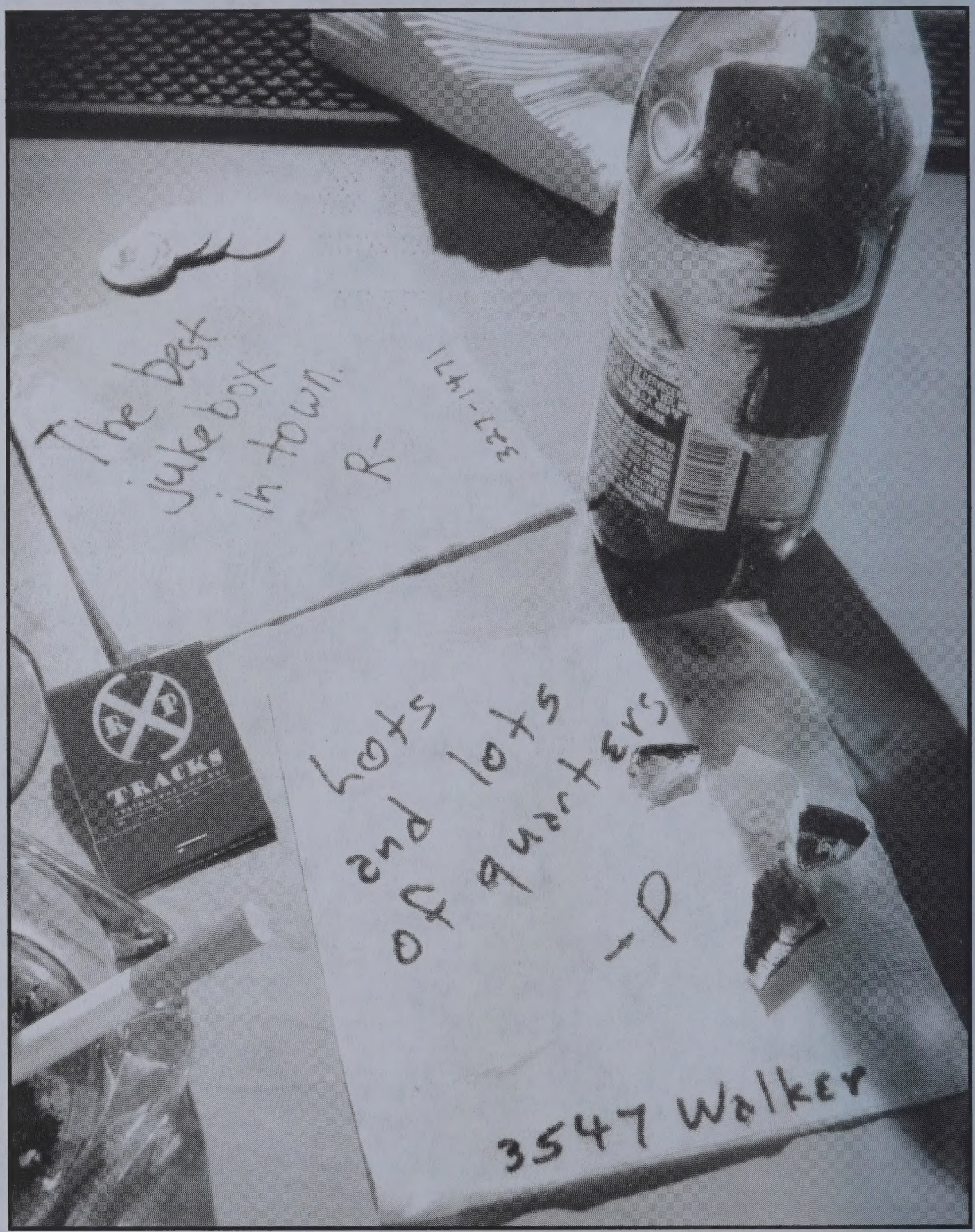
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VOL. 5, NO. 7

FAMILY and friends

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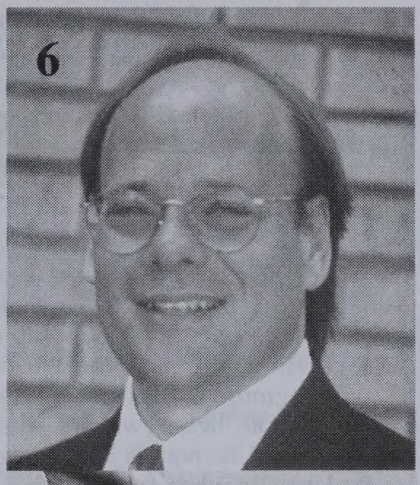


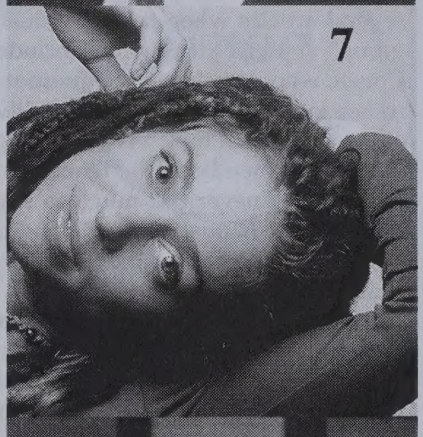


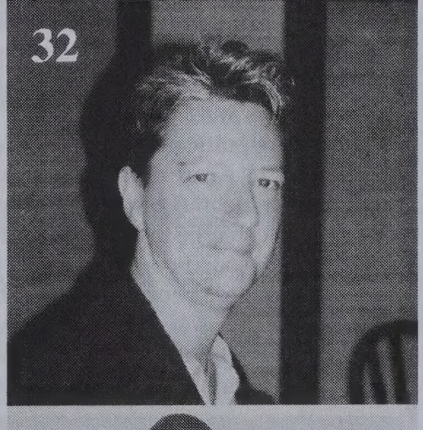


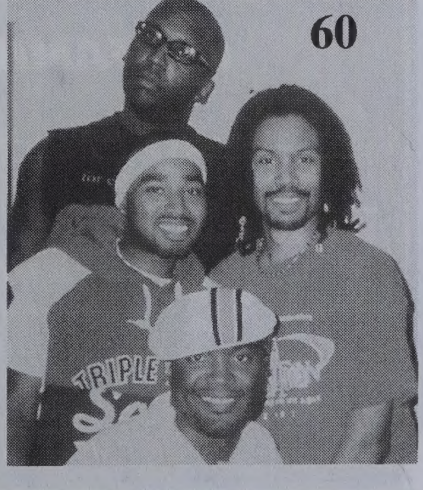

# AND OUR POINT IS ...

## RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Tennesseans will go to the polls again on Nov. 5. Besides voting for their choice for governor of Tennessee and other congressional seats, there will be a referendum deciding whether or not to allow a lottery in the state of Tennessee.

A large groups of Baptists spearheaded a campaign months ago to promote their view that the lottery was not beneficial to the citizens of Tennessee. *The Commercial Appeal* even printed several articles when it mysteriously received a copy of the group's strategic plans, which included smearing Senator Steve Cohen, who introduced the question of the lottery to the Tennessee legislature. Cohen, with political geniusness, fired back at the group that they were smearing him because he was the only Jewish member of the Tennessee legislature. Subsequently, the Baptists never did much to smear Cohen, but, instead, headed off to Baptist congregations to either preach to the choir or convince the back-sliders they are morally wrong to take a chance on the lottery.

We won't go into the obvious blurring of the lines between the separation of church and state here. But, what does concern us is the "concern" of those in the anti-lobby camp, as televised in news reports, that "economically-disadvantaged" people will be using their money to buy lottery tickets. They seem to be implying that these individuals will play the lottery with their paycheck and not provide the essentials of food and housing for themselves and/or their families. Therefore, the lottery will only cause a significant number of the poor citizens of our state to no longer take care of their families. Guess what, if a person, regardless of income, isn't taking care of their family now, the lottery won't change that one way or the other.

Getting on soap box now.

Where do these people get off? Why do they feel the need to tell an entire group sector that makes less money than they do how to live. Isn't this still America? What about "free choice?"

Wasn't it certain Baptist congregations that suddenly felt "led by God" to form Christian educational institutes at the same time the city of Memphis was ordered in the 1970s to start busing students across the city in an attempt to insure all children, black or white, had a chance at a quality education? We don't think it bothered God too much that both black and white children would be in the same classroom. But for some reason, they felt it was time to create schools with tuition that the "economically-disadvantaged," usually black citizens in this case, didn't have a chance to afford.

What does the term "economically-disadvantaged" mean anyway? Is there a place at which your gross income drops and you lose the ability to know how to be thrifty and take care of your family. We know of many that consider themselves "economically-disadvantaged" who make $35,000 a year. Actually, we know of one couple, because of the high tuition they pay to the Christian educational institute for their children, at times consider themselves without excess resources, even though both together make close to $100,000. On the other hand, we know men and women, living on fixed, minimum-wage incomes, that have become quite resourceful, knowing when the "kids-eat-free" nights are at different restaurants, who are actively involved in their child's school life and know what fun it is to play in the park.

Why do these self-righteous individuals think that because someone is "economically-disadvantaged" they are going to run to the nearest convenience store to cash their check with lottery tickets? Give us a break. No, give the "economically-disadvantaged" a break and realize that they are quite capable of making a decision to buy or not buy a lottery ticket.

Why deny anyone a $3 chance to win a million? Yes, there will be "economically-disadvantaged" people buying more lottery tickets than they can afford and skipping the utility bill.

**See Your Point Is, page 37**


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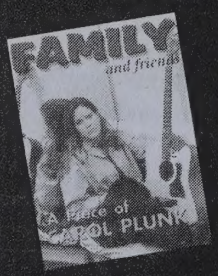


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# Senator Steve Cohen talks about a lottery

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

On Nov. 5, Tennessee voters will go to the polls and on the ballot will be a yes/no question. Voters will vote either for or against allowing a lottery in the state of Tennessee. State Senator Steve Cohen proposed the lottery in Nashville and is organizing efforts for its passage.

This proposed constitutional amendment, although allowing a lottery in the State of Tennessee, specifically prohibits casinos in the state.

Cohen proposes the net proceeds from the lottery be allocated specifically for educational purposes.

"If adopted," Cohen said, "(the amendment) will permit the General Assembly to enact a lottery only if the proceeds are directed to college scholarships, before- and after-school programs and K-12 capital improvements. Such funds could only be used to supplement, not supplant, current education funding."

Cohen told *Family & Friends* he expects the lottery, if approved by voters and the legislature, to begin at the end of 2003.

"I believe the age limit will be 18," Cohen answered our question as to how old a person will have to be to purchase lottery tickets. "Every state with a lottery has provisions to prevent minors from buying tickets. I envision lottery tickets will be sold where people are already carded for alcohol and beer.

"It is illegal for children to gamble," Cohen continued, answering lottery opponent's belief that lotteries lead to compulsive gambling problems for children. "States must enforce the law, just like they must enforce the laws that prohibit retailers from selling tobacco and liquor to minors."

In response to the view that lotteries are played mainly by the poor or "economically-disadvantaged," Cohen said a 1997 *Washington Post* poll found middle-income people were the most likely to play the lottery. And a recent Gallop poll found those with incomes of less than $25,000 were lest likely to play the lottery.

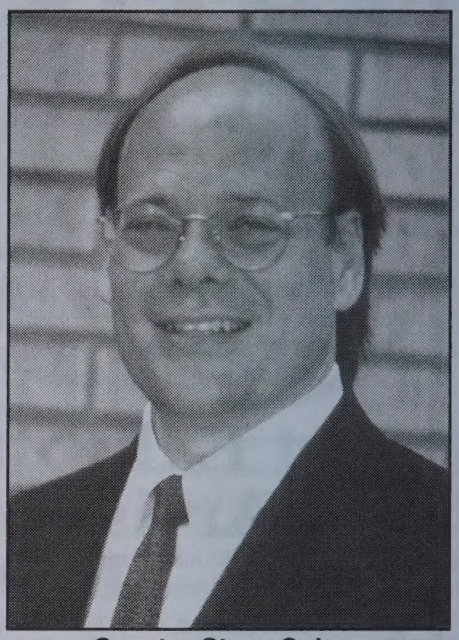
According to Cohen, since 1964, U.S. state lotteries have generated and returned more than $150 billion dollars to a host of (state) programs. These programs include helping with college tuition (Ga. & Ky.), assisting seniors with the cost of prescriptions (Pa.), protecting the environment (Colo.), preserving heritage (Ariz.) and lowering property taxes (Wis.).

"The estimated gross sales for a lottery in Tennessee is expected to be $900 million," Cohen said. "In lottery states, the breakdown runs 50 percent for prizes, 35 percent for the state and 15 percent for operating expenses, which includes all overhead, including advertising and what is paid to vendors for selling the tickets." Therefore, net proceeds from a Tennessee Lottery could be estimated in excess of $300 million.

The administration and accounting for the Tennessee Lottery would "most likely (be) contracted out to (a) private company," Cohen continued. "It will be determined through legislation, but it's run by private companies with expertise in most, if not all, states. ... Lotteries are strictly regulated. ... Any lottery commission would be subject to auditing by the State Comptroller, as well."

What about the amounts to be distributed to "college scholarships, before and after school programs and K-12 capital improvements?"

"Tennessee will probably have $150 million each for college/technical school scholarships and pre-kindergarten programs," Cohen answered. "Tennessee presently provides only $25-30 million annually for need-based college scholarships and approximately $6 million for pre-kindergarten. ... The General Assembly will enact legislation with the details but my intention and hope is that Tennessee will follow Georgia's lead."



Senator Steve Cohen

Cohen based the Tennessee's lottery proposal on Georgia's successful HOPE program (an acronym for Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally). Georgia's HOPE was the nation's first program of its kind.

HOPE became available for Georgia students in September 1993, and, since its inception, the Georgia Lottery has provided more than $5 billion for education, with $1.6 billion for HOPE scholarships, $1.6 billion for Georgia's pre-K programs and $1.78 billion for capital outlay and technology. Whereas Tennessee now spends $6 million per year for pre-kindergarten programs for 1,200 students, Georgia spends more than $200 million for 60,000 students.

Before HOPE, only 24 percent of Georgia students, who scored 1500 or better on the SAT, attended Georgia schools; now 75 percent attend Georgia schools. Also, SAT scores in Georgia have risen 11 percent since HOPE began.

According to Cohen, the HOPE program has resulted in better grades and higher objective test scores for high school students who are working toward receiving HOPE scholarships because they

See Lottery, page 14

# Ani Difranco releases new CD, video, keeps going

BY COLE WALKER
STAFF WRITER

Ani Difranco is an ever-evolving, unique and distinctive voice in a sea of stale, boring noise. She is a one-woman army on a crusade to resurrect the great art of the folk-singer/musical-storyteller.

Difranco stepped out onto the musical landscape more than a decade ago. Armed with only her voice, her acoustic guitar and a keen lyrical sensibility, she launched herself into the enormous sea that is the music industry. Despite interest from several major record labels, Difranco decided to follow the DIY (do-it-yourself) punk-rock ethic; she borrowed money from friends to start her own record label, Righteous Babe Records.

The birth of Righteous Babe Records became a huge milestone in Difranco's career and often threatens to overshadow her musical success. As the head of her own label, Difranco has indeed set a precedent for women in music. While artists like Sarah McLachlan have consciously worked to make the presence of women felt in the music industry, Difranco succeeded beyond anything they've done without even trying. In starting her own label she became the first woman to do so and thus became the first female member of an all-boys club. Still, Difranco doesn't make much of this accomplishment, often stating that she simply did what made the most sense and allowed her the most artistic freedom.

Of course, one would be amiss to talk about Difranco and only discuss her record label. Difranco may have shaken up the music industry with her woman-run record label, but her true power lies in her music.

In 1991, she released her first album, simply entitled *Ani Difranco*. The album was a masterpiece of folk music. With only her vocals and acoustic guitar, Difranco managed to put across as much force and energy as a 40-piece orchestra. The album was an instant hit with college students, feminists and fans of the beautiful, simple musical statement that is folk music.

By 1995, Difranco's sound had evolved to include a three-piece band, composed of Difranco's guitar work, along with bass and drum parts. Difranco's increased use of electric guitars further displayed her brilliant guitar talent.

Unlike much of the guitar work flowing out of Top-40 albums, Difranco's style is deeply rooted in folk traditions, such as "picking" the guitar strings as opposed to "strumming." In fact, Difranco has become known for her unique method of taping guitar picks to each of her fingers instead of holding one pick between her finger and thumb.

Difranco's sound underwent another great evolution in 1998, when she released her next masterpiece, *Little Plastic Castles*. The album found Difranco experimenting with new sounds, including horns and trumpets, something that would become a staple of her later work. Though this experimentation continued through her next three albums, it wasn't until her 2001 release, *revelling/reckoning*, that Difranco brought in a full, six-piece band for the entire recording.

But, Difranco is more than her amazing records. She is one of the most brilliant, live performers around. In fact, if she isn't in the process of working on a new record, it's a safe bet that she's on the road. Her shows are a blistering mix of guitars and her amazingly witty and socially-aware lyrics. It is hard to go to a Difranco concert and not feel part of some larger whole. She stirs the coward into a frenzy as all raise their voices and sing along in a beautiful chorus.

Difranco is, of course, known for her lyrics, which run the gambit from blistering social commentary to insightful, introspective expressions of life. In the classic track, "Talk To Me Now," from her debut record, she sings, "I'm determined to survive on these shores/I don't avert my eyes anymore/in a man's world I am/a woman by birth/and after 19 times around I have found/they will stop at nothing/once they know what you are worth."

And, in what must be the best ever "f**k-you-love-gone-bad-song, "Untouchable Face," from 1996's *Dilate*, Difranco sings, "Y'know, I don't look forward/to seeing you again/you'll look like a photograph of yourself/taken from far far away/and I won't know what to do/and I won't know what to say/except f**k you/and your untouchable face."

And in what may be one of her most sublime and beautiful social commentaries yet, "Subdivision," from 2001's *revelling/reckoning*, Difranco croons the lines, "So we're led by denial like lambs to the slaughter/serving empires of style and carbonated sugar water/and the old farm road's a four-lane that leads to the mall/and our dreams are all guillotines waiting to fall."

See Ani Difranco, page 10

## *Reviews* by Cole Walker

# Ani Difranco's video *Render*

**Ani Difranco *Render* (DVD)**

For years, Ani Difranco loyalists, and new fans alike, have been begging Difranco to record a full-length video to capture her live shows. Well, folks, here it is.

*Render* is culled mostly from Difranco's 2000-2001 tour with snippets of older material spliced in for good measure. For those looking for something to literally sit down and watch that has a clear beginning and ending, this isn't for you. The film meanders about, much in the way Difranco's tour bus meanders about the globe.

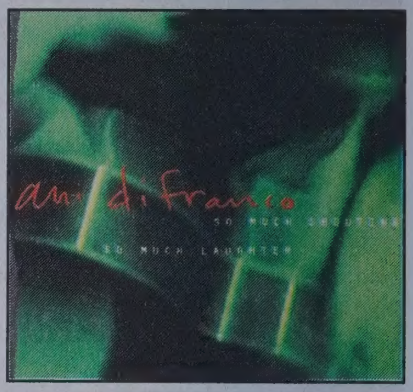
You get an insider's look at the insides of touring life with Difranco, witnessing everything from Difranco and her six-piece band going through a sound check before a show, to Difranco and the band working through the process of creating a new song and even to Difranco alone in the studio mixing an album. The album she's mixing hap-

**See Difranco video, page 10**

# Ani Difranco's new album

**Ani Difranco *So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter***

What can I, as a reviewer, say about Ani Difranco that hasn't been said already? She is a distinct, ever-evolving musical voice in a sea of sound-a-likes. She is the leader of her own one-woman army, bent on musical revolution. And she is a truly, righteous babe.




Difranco's career officially began with the 1991 release of her self-titled debut, which was an instant hit with indie radio, college students, feminists and lesbians alike. But, it was in 1997, with the release of her astounding two-disc, live set, *Living In Clip*, that Difranco's career truly took off.

*So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter* is the long-awaited follow-up to *Living In Clip*. While the two albums may bear some

**See Difranco CD, page 10**

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# Annual HIV/AIDS healing service slated

On Sunday, Oct. 6, from 3 to 5 p.m., all are invited to gather at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second Street and Adams Avenue in downtown Memphis, for a viewing of a panel from the AIDS Memorial Quilt, on loan from the NAMES Foundation. And at 6 p.m., the 14th Annual Ecumenical Service of Prayer & Healing in a Time of HIV/AIDS will be held at the church.

Clergy and representatives from more than 30 area churches, denominations and non-profit agencies will come together for this annual interfaith gathering of prayer, hope and compassion. The service includes the laying on of hands and prayers for the healing of all people affected by HIV/AIDS, including people living with HIV/AIDS, their caregivers, families and friends.

The Reverend Burton Carley, of the First Unitarian Church of Memphis: The Church on the River, will deliver the sermon. Special music will be presented by the Festival Adult Choirs of Calvary Church; Barbara Christensen, harp; Michael Scott, woodwinds, and Danny Johnston, classical guitar. A reception featuring the Teresa Pate Jazz Trio will be held following the service.

A nursery will be available for children up to age six.

In addition to the AIDS Memorial Quilt display, a "fabric sculpture" designed by local artist David Johnson will hang in the nave of Calvary Church during the month of October. This dramatic sculpture is draped through decorative supports and stretches the length of the church. It is in tribute to those who live with AIDS.

For more information, call (901) 525-6602.

## Ani Difranco

from page 7

So, this is Difranco, or at least an attempt to capture a snippet of who she is in a medium that can't possibly contain her. So, I'll stop trying to capture who she is and just let her say it for herself. The following lines come from the liner notes of Difranco's debut record, *Ani Defranco:*

"(I) speak without reservation from what I know and who I am. I do so with the understanding that all people should have the right to offer their voice to the chorus whether the result is harmony or dissonance; the worldsong is a colorless dirge without the differences which distinguish us, and it is that difference which should be celebrated, not condemned. Should any part of my music offend you, please do not cover your ears to it, just take what you can use and go on."

## Difranco video

from page 8

pens to be her newest release, the two-disc live album, *So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter.*

The film also gives you some interesting moments of Difranco and others discussing political and social issues in a series of seemingly random snippets that fit together to relate a very thought-provoking story. Among these snippets is one from Difranco's last show at the New Daisy Theater here in Memphis. This snippet includes her rap about the Civil Rights Museum. And, of course, her little discussion of how Mr. Bush stole the oval office. Anyone who was there will surely have feelings of deja vu when this part comes on, as the applause and that sudden feeling of us "all thinking the same thing and finally having someone say it" was truly overwhelming.

The DVD also includes some fun extras, including brief bios and songs by all the artists on Difranco's Righteous Babe Records; a section of goofs of sort, called "in the way," and a view of Difranco's garden.

Still, with all it's frills and interesting moments the DVD, at it's best (and it does get good), just can't contain the sheer amazing raw energy of Difranco's live shows. But, it should be enough to tide over Difranco loyalists until she comes to town again (I for one just hope I don't have to wait too long).

**Bookmark It!**

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www.FamilyandFriendsMagazine.com

## Difranco CD

from page 8

of the same songs and are both sung by the same artist, their sounds are completely different. Where *Living In Clip* was stripped-down, in-your-face, acoustic, hard-folk rock, *So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter* is ambient, funky, jazzy and at times something words cannot describe.

All the material on this album comes from Difranco's 2000-2001 tour with her new six-piece band. While the majority of the songs were originally recorded on Difranco's post *Living In Clip* records, still there is a good showing of the older material, not to mention three new songs. One of the new songs is Difranco's new song/poem "Self-Evident," which is Difranco's beautiful, brilliant, witty and insightful response to the events of September 11.

While some fans may long for Difranco to return to her simpler days of the old, tried-and-true, three-piece band, there is no denying the sheer sonic force and energy this band brings to Difranco's music. Yes, the little folk-singer truly has evolved. "32 Flavors" now sounds like something George Clinton and The Parliament Funkadelic might play instead of some soft, folk ditty.

And the newer material, which was originally recorded with the six-piece band, flows from the record with a new life. There is a noticeable new bounce and energy that comes from being caught live in the moment and not contrived in the studio. Some argue that change is a bad thing but *So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter* is a testament to the fact that sometimes change can be a very good thing.

Highlights include — Highlights, you want highlights? This is a freakin' two-disc, live Ani Difranco record. The very fact that it exists is a highlight!

# Tennessee Collegiate GLBT conference set

The first Tennessee Collegiate GLBT Student Conference is planned for Saturday, Oct. 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. The conference will be housed at the Divinity School on the Vanderbilt campus. The day's activities on campus will conclude at 7:30 p.m. with a viewing of *Cockettes*.

Connections, the well-known Nashville gay-bar, located at 901 Cowan Street in Nashville, will offer its support with free admission to anyone with a Tennessee Collegiate GLBT Student Conference I.D. for Saturday, Oct. 12.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender college students and their allies from colleges and universities across the state will gather to share experiences and attend informative workshops. Conference topics include "Queer U;" gay political organizing; religion and homosexuality, and violence in domestic partnerships. Author and transsexual performance artist Kate Bornstein and congressional candidate Carlton Cornett are scheduled to speak.

Also, the Vanderbilt Lambda Association's annual drag show will be held on Friday, Oct. 11, on Vanderbilt University's Wilson Lawn.

The conference registration fee is $15 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch and dinner on Oct. 12. Rooms also are available for free or a small fee.

For more information or to register, write Collegiate Conference, 2417 West End Avenue, Nashville TN 37240, email glbtoffice@vanderbilt.edu, call (615) 322-3330 or go online to www.vanderbilt.edu/glbtconf/.

# Lichterman fall plant sale slated this month

If you love to see things grow, you can find some great native wildflowers, shrubs and trees–more than 200 kinds of plants–which Lichterman Nature Center, located at 5992 Quince Road, has available for its Fall Plant Sale.

The 14th Annual Fall Plant Sale kicks off with the Fall Plant Sale Preview Party on Thursday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. Those attending will get first choice of the wide variety of plants on sale, including wildflowers, annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. The party includes refreshments, and reservations are required by calling (901) 767-7322, ext. 121. Tickets to the preview party purchased by Oct. 8 are $12.50; after Oct. 8, tickets are $15.

The Fall Plant Sale is set for Friday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission to the plant sale is free. This year's sale features plants like Blue Salvia, Black Raspberry, Common Milkweed, Pawpaw, Korean Hyssop, Sunflower, Mountain Mint, Carpenter's Square, Inland Sea Oats and many more. Related items from the gift shop also will be available for purchase.

For more information on the plant sale or available plants, call (901) 767-7322, ext. 121.

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# BULLETIN

*A STAR IS BORED*, the documentary starring Star Queen, Warren Grantham, Peterson Toscano, Chad Prosser, Billy Turner and Prince Mongo, will be featured in the 5th ANNUAL INDIE MEMPHIS FILM FESTIVAL Oct. 3 to 6 at the Muvico Peabody Place 22 Theater in downtown Memphis. *A Star is Bored*, which is up for the prestigious Hometowner Award, is directed by Kevin Dean and produced by Tran Peoples and Hyperbolic Productions.

According to the *Chicago Sun Times*, BEN AFFLECK and CINDY LAUPER, both who have relatives who are gay, are doing commercials for Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) — coming to a TV near you soon!

In observance of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH, located at 3430 Summer Avenue, will hold its ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS on Sunday, Oct. 6, at 4 p.m. Whether your pet is furry, scaly, bristly, hard-shelled, feathered or hairless, all are welcome at this service, which offers thanks and blesses all of God's creatures.

LAMBDA LEGAL reports that in the case of Rene v. MGM Grand Hotel, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that sexual harassment is not limited to heterosexual situations, but allowed a gay man to sue his employer for the harassment he received on the job from other male employees, taunting him because they perceived him to not fit the stereotype of masculinity.

On Oct. 11, for Coming Out Day, PRIDE ST. LOUIS is encouraging GLBT couples to reach across the table at a public restaurant and hold their same-sex boyfriend/girlfriend's hand and/or to at least dine out wearing a gay visible pin, Pride shirt, etc.

The board of directors for the year 2002-2003 for MEMPHIS PRIDE INC. is as follows: Kay Mills, chair; Patty Pair, co-chair, Barbara Jean Jasen, parliamentarian; Katie Hiestand, at-large and Tim Johnson, at-large. The positions of treasurer and secretary are still vacant.

All women interested in books, take note! A BOOK GROUP FOR LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL WOMEN in the Memphis area has formed. For details, go online to www.femizon.com/sagsapp.html or email bookbabe@femizon.com.

Congratulations to CAROL PLUNK AND THE BAND. In September, they taped segments for "FoodNation with Bobby Flay" to be aired at a later date on the Food Network cable channel.

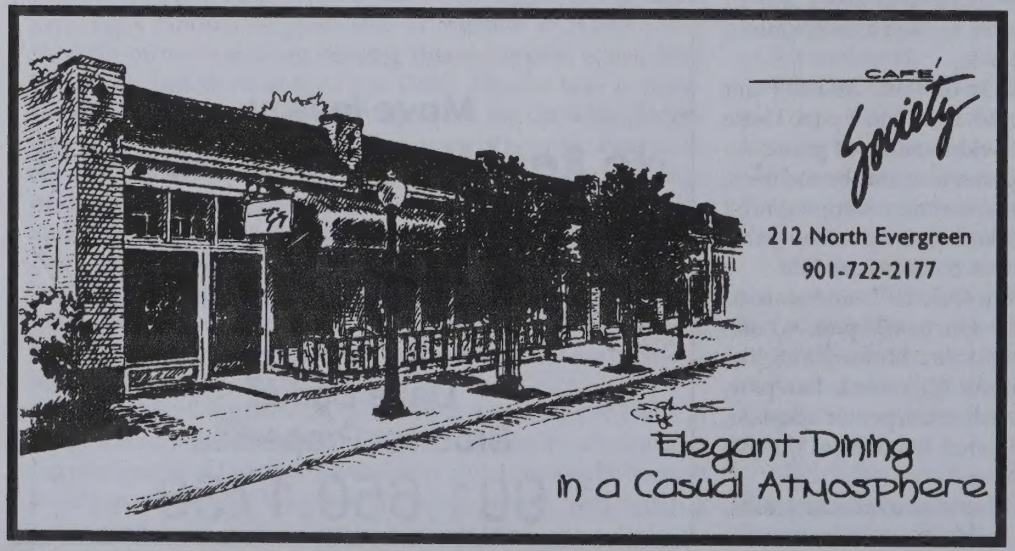
Lots of events are planned for the weekend of Oct. 11-13, in celebration of NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY, Oct. 11. Tennessee GLBT college students will be meeting on the campus of VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY for a summit; Equality Tennessee is significantly involved in this inaugural event. The 2ND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER SUMMIT will meet at the beautiful Mississippi retreat center, Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Miss. Locally, OUTFLIX 2002 will be held both at Studio on the Square and at First Congregational Church in Midtown Memphis. If you are stuck at home, turn the cable to the SUNDANCE CHANNEL for a great lineup of gay-themed films airing that weekend.

MEMPHIS PRIDE INC. will NOT be holding its annual Coming Out Day picnic in order not to conflict with OutFlix 2002.

WE ARE EVERYWHERE! — That's been one of our favorite sayings since we first saw it colorfully tattooed on the forearm of a gay man in Mississippi about this time last year. Well, since we are, indeed, everywhere, *Family & Friends* has decided it's time to meet your neighbors. Now, every month, you, our faithful readers, will be introduced to someone who resides in the Mid-South GLBT community. For your first introductions, see pages 23 and 61 in this issue.

Congratulations are in order for the BUSHWACKERS, the JAGUARS and the YOUNG AVENUE DELI HOMEWRECKERS. All three BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION softball teams recently competed in the 14th Annual MUSIC CITY CLASSIC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT held in Nashville. When the dust around homeplate settled, the Bushwackers were undefeated and brought home the D-REC Division title. The Jaguars finished sixth out of 16 teams in their division, while the Homewreckers finished the tourney tied for fifth place out of eight teams trying for D-REC title. For pictures, see page 20 of this issue.

Are you registered? To vote that is. If you are, then, please make your voice heard by casting ballots in the upcoming Nov. 5 election. Among the items on the ballot, whether or not Tennessee should have a state lottery. If you read our "And Your Point Is ..." you already know where we stand on this issue. It's not a matter of whether it's a good thing or a bad thing, but that people should be allowed to choose to play if they want.



# Arts in the Park set weekend of October 25-27

It is that time of year again! Memphis Arts Festival's 14th Annual Arts in the Park is set for Friday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Audubon Park, located at the corner of Southern Avenue and Perkins Extended. Arts in the Park is the Mid-South's only comprehensive visual and performing arts festival.

Traveling from across the U.S., more than 1,000 artists of all types will participate in Arts in the Park 2002, as well as 150 vendors.

Several juried art competitions will be featured at this year's event, including Senior Arts Works, a juried art competition for all senior citizens in the Mid-South, 55 years and older; The Art of Medicine, open to all physicians and patients who create visual art; the Student Banner Competition, and the Youth Art Exhibit, entitled "Self Portraits: The Many Faces of the Mid-South."

There will be five stages full of headline entertainment, including The Bouffants, the North Mississippi AllStars and the Memphis Jazz Orchestra. P.D. Parrott's Big Backyard will feature wonderful entertainment and activities for children of all ages.

While taking in the art and entertainment at Arts in the Park 2002, there will be some great culinary delicacies offered for purchase by such vendors as Huey's, McAlister's Deli, Square Market, Coletta's Pizza, Langston Party Dogs, Maxwell Concessions, Cafe Samovar, Athenian Gyros, Molly's LaCasita, On Teur and Super Swine Sizzlers.

One-day tickets are $10 for adults and $4 for children and two-day tickets are $16 for adults and $6 for children.

Senior citizens are admitted free all three days through a grant from the H.W. Durham Foundation. To make the event even more accessible, parking will be free this year with a donation of a canned food item for the Memphis Food Bank.

For more information, call (901) 761-1278 or go online to www.memphisartsfestival.org.

# London gays unregister

BY REX WOCKNER
STAFF WRITER

Five of the 314 gay couples who tied the knot under London, England's Partnership Register since it was launched a year ago have deregistered, *The Independent* reported Sept. 3.

The partnership failure rate, 1.6 percent, is nearly the same as for heterosexual marriages in the first year – 1.3 percent, the paper said.

Unlike in many European nations where registered gay couples have most rights of marriage, very few rights are granted by London's gay registry other than symbolic recognition by Mayor Ken Livingstone.

*Rex Wockner has reported news for the gay press since 1985. His work has appeared in more than 200 gay publications. He has a B.A. in journalism from Drake University, started his career as a radio reporter, and has written extensively for the mainstream media as well.*

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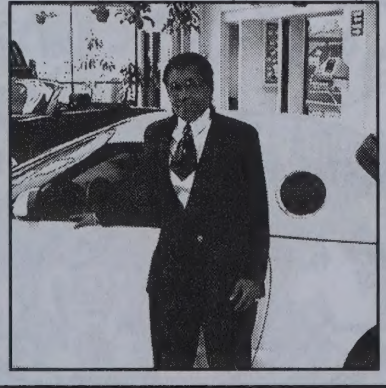

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# Lottery

from page 6

must achieve good grades to receive a scholarship. College students wishing to maintain their HOPE scholarships have to maintain good grades, usually a "B" average.

Georgia students in public colleges and universities receive tuition, mandatory fees and a $300 per academic year book allowance. Scholarship recipients at private universities receive $3,000 per academic school year and a $1,100 Georgia Tuition Equalization grant. Technical school students receive tuition, mandatory fees and a $200 per academic year book allowance.

Will the Tennessee lottery scholarship funds only be available to those just graduating from high school?

"This will be determined in the enacting legislation, which the legislature will have to pass after the referendum," Cohen answered. "It is also possible that persons who wish to return to college may be eligible. It depends on the criteria the General Assembly establishes.

"Georgia doesn't have income restrictions," Cohen said in regard to those applying for scholarships, "and I don't envision Tennessee having income restrictions.

"The lottery will enable students to pay for their education with lottery scholarships rather than out of their own pockets," Cohen said. "Students who must incur debt to attend college start their careers at a disadvantage. A scholarship program, funded by lottery proceeds, would relieve such financial burdens and would permit students to emerge from college without debt."

Can the Tennessee legislature redirect the funds from the Tennessee Lottery to any other use than the stated educational purposes, later on?

"No," Cohen answered. "Those provisions will be in the Constitution and could only be changed either by a Constitutional Convention with delegates elected by the people or through a referendum voted on by the people."

Besides the direct effect of educational funds provided by lottery proceeds, Cohen proposes that the lottery would have a secondary positive effect on the state's coffers.

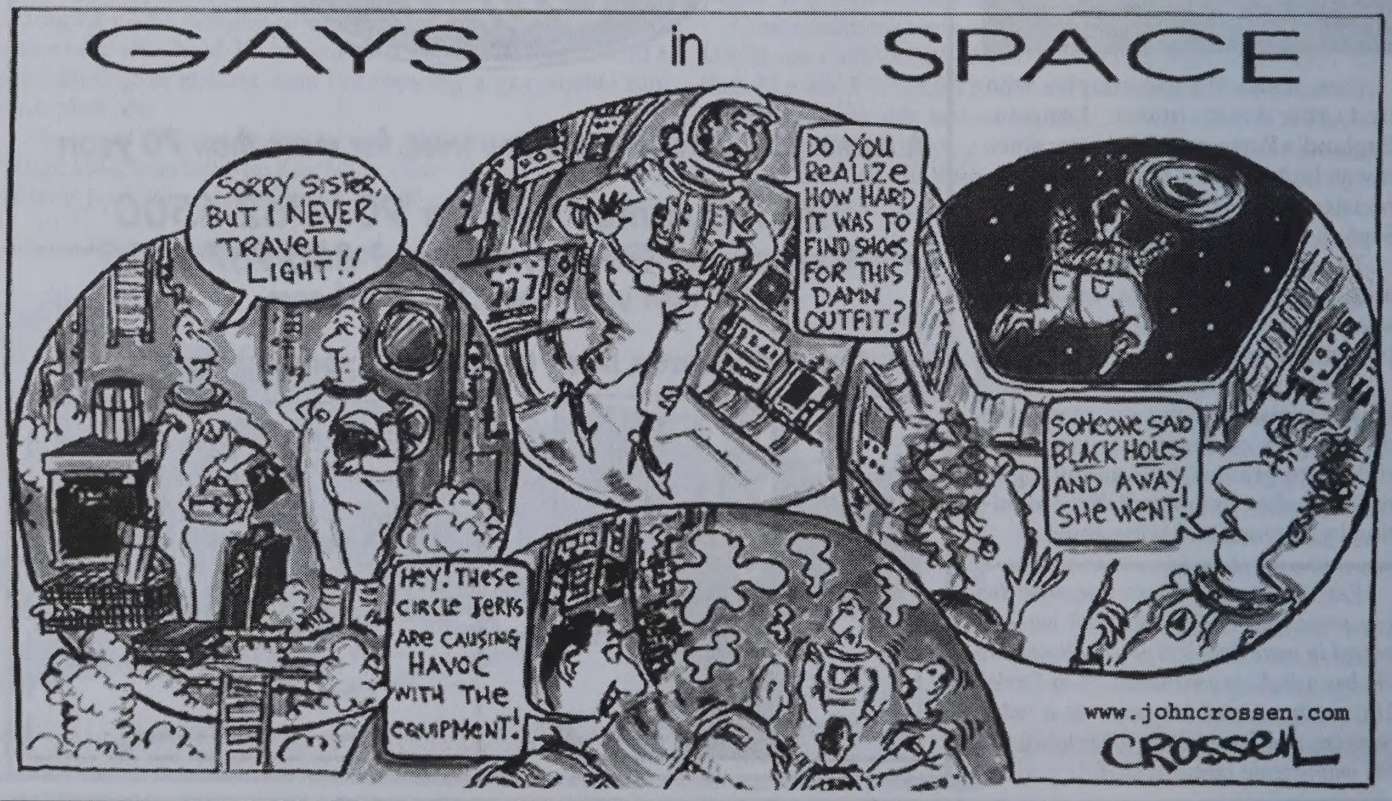
"For years, Tennesseans have been crossing state lines to buy lottery tickets," Cohen said, "and spending money on non-lottery items while in other states."

Evidencing this is the fact that *The Commercial Appeal*, a Tennessee newspaper, prints "State Lottery Results," listing this regular column on page one in its table of contents, "Inside."

"A lottery in Tennessee will help with tax seepage," Cohen explained, "which occurs when people cross our borders to buy lottery tickets and also buy groceries, gasoline, liquor and cigarettes in other states, which hurts Tennessee businesses and deprives the state of the tax revenue from such sales. In 1997, the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations estimated that Tennessee loses at least $10 million annually in sales tax revenue as a result of Tennesseans playing the lottery in Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Virginia, etc. That figure was based on the state sales tax rate at six percent, which was increased to seven percent this year.

"The passage of the lottery referendum and institution of a lottery will provide Tennesseans with (tax) relief through lottery-funded scholarships," Cohen concluded, "and will have a positive impact on Tennessee's overall tax structure. Furthermore, a lottery-funded scholarship program will produce a better-educated, less debt-ridden society."

For more information on the proposed Tennessee lottery, go online to www.Lotteryes.com.


GAYS in SPACE
SORRY SISTER, BUT I NEVER TRAVEL LIGHT!!
DO YOU REALIZE HOW HARD IT WAS TO FIND SHOES FOR THIS DAMN OUTFIT?
SOMEONE SAID BLACK HOLES AND AWAY SHE WENT!
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# REEL TWISTED

**By Laine McNeil**

Sundance Channel will observe National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, with the airing of several GLBT-themed movies and shorts. This is the fifth year this network has observed NCOD through its extremely gay-friendly programming.

The festivities kick off at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11, with Nina Bergstrom and Cecilia Neant-Falk's documentary *Companions: Tales from the Closet*. At 8 p.m., writer/director/actor Jason Gould's bubbly autobiographical short *Inside Out* airs.

Besides these two films, throughout the month of October, Sundance will air *Aimee & Jaguar, Better Than Chocolate, Choose Me, The Crying Game, Different For Girls, The Doom Generation, Kiss Me Guido, L.I.E., Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100, Maurice* and *The Monkey's Mask*. Check local listings for dates and times.

***Inside Out***

Jason Gould, left, and Alexis Arquette in *Inside Out*.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if your parents were famous? In Jason Gould's seventh film, *Inside Out*, viewers are treated to a peak inside the life of a gay child born to celebrity parents.

The film, which the openly-out Gould also wrote, directed and produced, isn't far from being autobiographical since he is the only son of actor Elliott Gould (who also appears in the film) and gay-icon and songstress extraordinaire Barbra Streisand (Gould has appeared on screen with his mother).

Gould portrays Aaron, the gay son of celebrity parents who, during the course of the film, dodges the paparazzi, dates a closet case, hangs out with his best friend (Alexis Arquette) and attends a celebrity child support group run by writer/guru Christina Crawford, who plays herself. There's even a joke made about coat hangers.

Gould's father and his step-brother, Sam Gould, also appear in the film as thinly veiled versions of themselves (yes, Elliott plays Aaron's dad).

*Inside Out* also features additional cameo appearances by other celebrity offspring.

A little history about the two principal actors:

Gould was born Dec. 29, 1966. His previous film work has included a starring role in the 1998 espionage thriller *Subterfuge*, and supporting roles in 1991's *Prince Of Tides*, starring Gould's mother, who also directed the film, and Nick Nolte (he played Barbra's son, Bernard Woodruff); 1989's *Say Anything*, starring John Cuscak and Ione Skye; 1989's *Listen To Me*, starring Kirk Cameron and Jami Gertz, and 1989's *The Big Picture*, starring Kevin Bacon.

Arquette was born in Los Angeles in 1969. Probably the most enigmatic – and unpredictable – member of the Arquette acting dynasty (his siblings include brothers, David and Richmond, and sisters, Rosanna and Patricia), he made his film debut at the age of 17 in *Down And Out In Beverly Hills*. He is best-known for his roles in *Pulp Fiction, Wigstock: The Movie, Bride Of Chucky, The Wedding Singer, Clubland* and most recently, 2002's *Spun*.

• • •

***Companions: Tales From The Closet,***

Continuing the theme of "getting a peak inside someone else's life," this documentary provides an inspiring look into what life as a lesbian was like before the Daughters of Bilitis and Stonewall.

Directed by Cecilia Neant-Falk and Nina Bergstrom, *Companions* is a tale of lesbian love.

During the film's 29 minutes, viewers meet five Swedish women, all between the ages of 60 and 75, who talk of their lives from the 1930s and onwards with a mixture of humor and emotion, telling tales of budding love and erotic encounters, and also of self-hatred and secrecy. All of the women were forced to question conventions and risk losing friends and colleagues in their courageous fight for the right to choose their own way of living.

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# Lamba helps gays get victory in workplace

A federal appeals court ruled on Sept. 24, in Rene v. MGM Grand Hotel, that a gay man, Medina Rene, a butler who worked serving high-profile guests at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, who was harassed "mercilessly" by his supervisor and co-workers, can sue under a federal sex discrimination law. Lambda Legal called the decision a "solid victory" for equality in the workplace that will have broad implications.

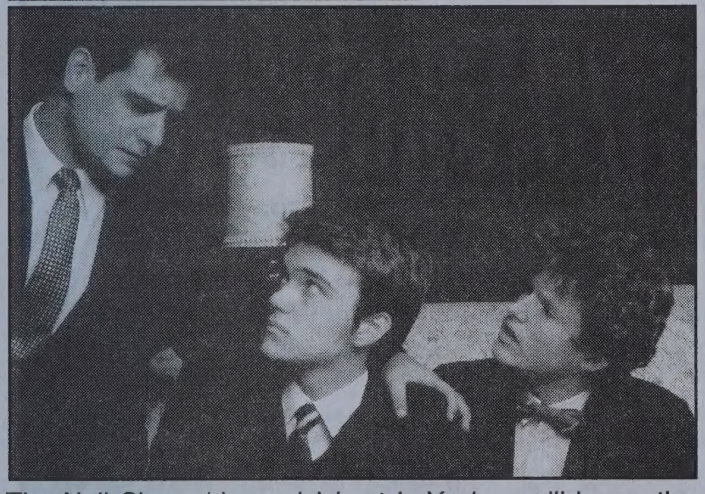
Rene was subjected to offensive comments and physically harassed on a regular basis by members of the all-male workforce. The trial court and a panel of the federal appeals court earlier ruled that he could not sue under federal law because Rene had said he was targeted for harassment based on his sexual orientation. In today's ruling, a majority of the full 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed those decisions.

"The court was clear today that lesbians and gay men are equally protected from sexual harassment on the job – and that harassment based on gender stereotypes is, in fact, sexual harassment that is prohibited by federal civil rights laws," said Jon Davidson, Lambda Legal's senior counsel, who wrote a friend-of-the-court brief.

"Today's ruling will impact lesbians and gay men – and others – who face harassment and discrimination because they don't fit what their co-workers or bosses think a man or a woman should be," Davidson said. "A significant amount of anti-gay harassment is sexual in nature and is rooted in gender stereotypes. This decision will be a powerful tool toward securing equal treatment in the workplace."

For more information, go online to www.lambdalegal.org.

## *Lost In Yonkers*



The Neil Simon 'dramady' *Lost In Yonkers* will be on the Lohrey Stage at Theatre Memphis Oct. 18-Nov. 3. It is the story of two boys who are sent to live with their strict paternal grandmother in Yonkers. Pictured are Cort Winsett, Jordan Nichols and William Kean. *Photo by Steve Roberts*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# October 11 is National Coming Out Day

For 14 years, Oct. 11 has been more than just another day to gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people. For some, Oct. 11 is a day of pride, for others, it's a day of liberation and freedom.

Every Oct. 11, since 1988, has been celebrated as National Coming Out Day all across America. Celebratory events have included workshops, rallies, marches and, yes, even picnics, all aimed at showing the public that GLBT people are everywhere.

Why Oct. 11?

On Oct. 11, 1987, half a million people marched on Washington for gay and lesbian equality, which was the second such demonstration in our nation's capital, as well as the first public display of the NAMES Project Quilt, in remembrance of those lost to AIDS.

Recognizing that the GLBT community often reacted defensively to anti-gay actions, attendees decided to create a national day to celebrate coming out and chose the anniversary of that second march to commemorate it.

The late Keith Haring donated his now-famous image of a person kicking open a closet door for the inaugural event, which was observed in 18 states and received national media attention.

"There were some who opined that NCOD was an invasion of privacy because the movement had been based on respecting gay peoples' private lives," said Lynn Shepodd, who was involved in planning the first event. "It was clear, though, that the community was ready to take its next step and be out. You cannot have an invisible movement."

In 1990, Shepodd was named executive director of the organization, and in 1993, National Coming Out Day merged with the then-Human Rights Campaign Fund.

The National Coming Out Day Project 2002 theme is "Being Out Rocks," which celebrates gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender musicians who have achieved their dreams while living open, honest lives.

On Oct. 11, 2002, a benefit CD will be released to the public. It will feature the songs of openly GLBT musicians and straight allies, such as Cyndi Lauper, Queen, k.d. lang, Jade Esteban Estrada and Sarah McLachlan.

The CD can be ordered online at www.hrc.org/cornerstore. All the proceeds will go to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

Memphis has shared in the celebration of NCOD, as well.

"Memphis Pride Inc. has historically held its annual fall picnic during the weekend NCOD is observed in the Mid-South. However, MPI will not host its annual NCOD Picnic this year in an effort to focus, not distract, from the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center's OutFlix 2002 Film Festival," said Kay Mills, newly-reelected MPI chair.

OutFlix will feature several movies, short films and documentaries about living life as openly GLBT individuals and the coming out process. OutFlix 2002 is set for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10-13. For more on OutFlix, see page 29.

Are you obsessed with Madonna?
Do you own all her albums & videos?
Have you dyed your hair blonde?
Have you painted a mole on your cheek?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions ...
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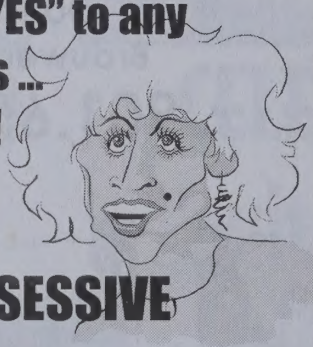

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## *Star Queen: The Next Generation*

*Star Queen: The Next Generation,* the stage play written by Greg Jordan and Geoff Tucker, was one of the many entertainment highlights of the A Place At The Table Cabaret Evening 2002, held Sept. 7, at First Congregational Church. Held as one of many APATT dinners around town for Friends For Life, this dinner show also featured several cabaret numbers. The hosts for the evening were Billy Buchanan, Keith Byars, Greg Gadomski, Michael P. Hoots, Jim Knight, George Mabon, LaQuita Jackson, David Richardson, Stephen Swords and Will Thompson.

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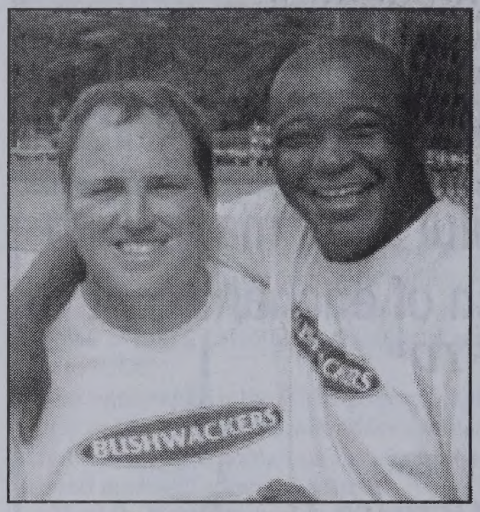
# FAMILY ALBUM

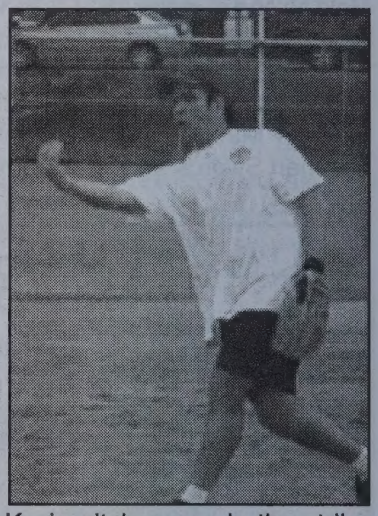
## Music City Classic Softball Tournament in Nashville



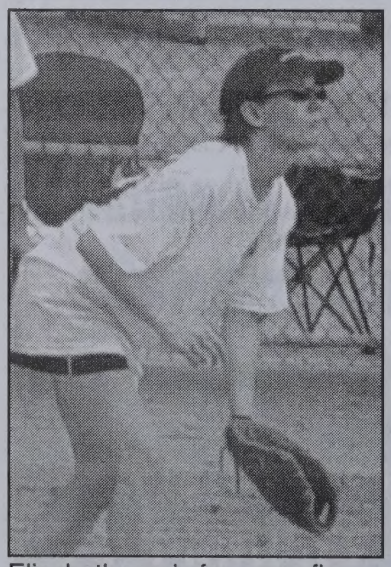

Thomas and Shaun

Young Avenue Deli Homewreckers team shot

Up to bat ... Cindy gets ready to take a swing.



Kevin pitches one in the strike zone.



Elizabeth ready for a pop fly.

Jaguars warm up, watch the competition.

## 3 Memphis softball teams fare well

Three teams from the Bluff City Sports Association represented the Memphis GLBT community on the field in Nashville at the 14th Annual Music City Classic Softball Tournament.

Teams from nine different states, including Tennessee, Illinois, New York, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Florida, Alabama and Missouri, traveled to Nashville for this nationally-recognized event. Teams competed in four class divisions (Levels A/B, C, D and D-REC).

Participating in the C division class was the Jaguars, and participating in the D-REC division were the Bushwackers and the Young Avenue Deli Homewreckers.

After an intense two days of tournament play, through rain, mud and injuries, the Bushwackers walked away undefeated with the first place trophy for the D-REC division. And the other two Memphis teams placed quite well with the Jaguars finishing in sixth place out of 16 teams and the Young Avenue Deli Homewreckers tieing for fifth place out of eight teams.

# Brothers, Sisters Bowling League play underway

The Brothers and Sisters Bowling League bowls weekly each Sunday, beginning at 6 p.m. at Cordova Bowling Center, located at 7945 Club Center Cove in Cordova, just off Germantown Parkway near Dexter Road.

The league features four-person teams of any gender mix; no experience required.

For more information, call Tony Matics at (901) 722-5236 or email MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com.

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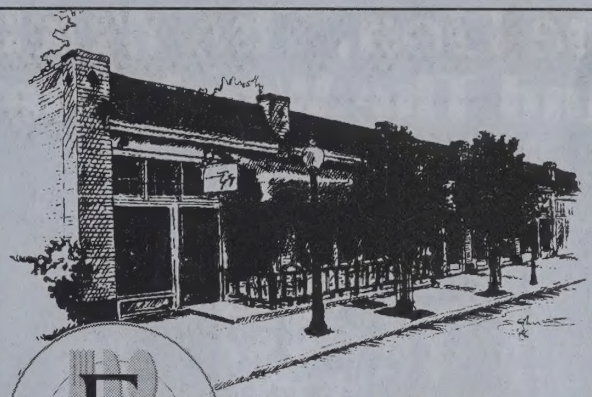
**Show starts at 8:30 p.m.**



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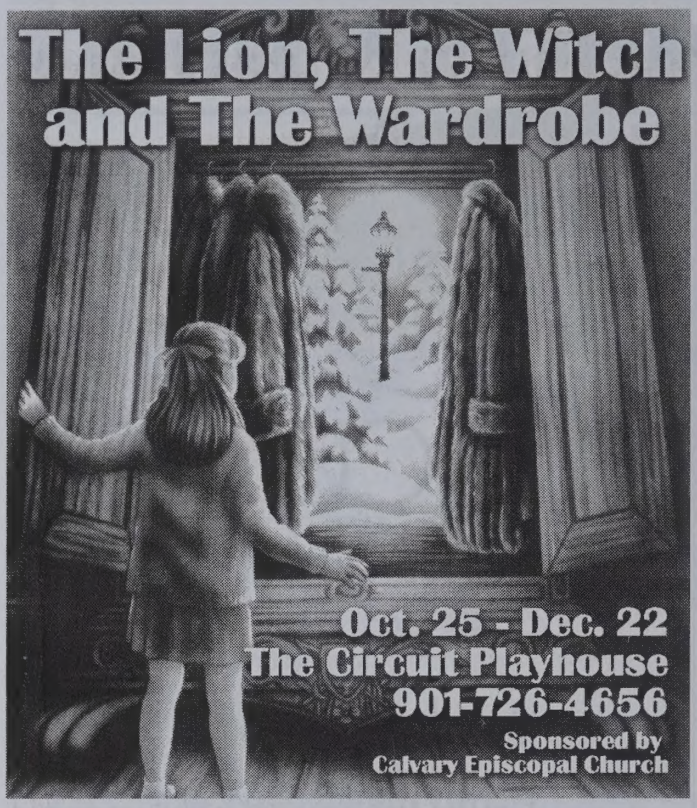
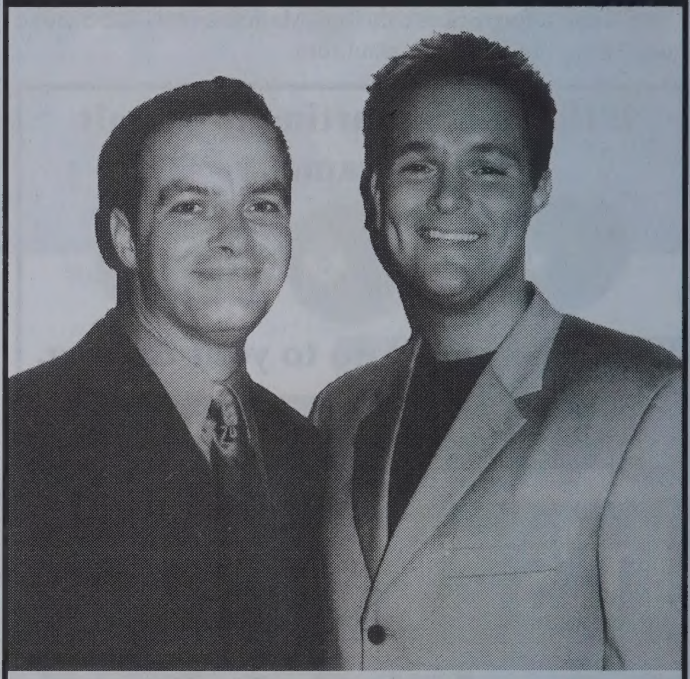



# Meet Your Neighbor

## Michael Hoots



**Name?** Michael Hoots (that's me on the right)
**Birthplace?** Amory, Miss.
**How long have you lived in Memphis?** 8 years
**Relationship status?** committed 3 years in November to William Thompson (that's him on the left)
**Sexual orientation?** gay
**Occupation?** sales
**Hobbies?** theater and music, and I teach aerobics & yoga
**Favorite Food?** sushi
**Favorite Color?** red
**Favorite Animal?** my cat Sammie (he's a big, yellow, longhair tabby cat)
**Favorite Singer?** Anne-Hampton Calloway
**Favorite Movie?** *The Women* "Lamoure, lamoure"
**Favorite Song?** "Burning Up" by Madonna
**Favorite Restaurant?** Le Petit Bistro in Toronto, Canada
**Favorite Drink?** any white wine with ice
**Favorite thing about Memphis?** That there's lots to do and it's all affordable. Memphis has one of the best theater communities in the nation for its size.
**Least favorite thing about Memphis?** People's negative attitudes about themselves, the city and its progress.
**Finish this phrase: My friends think I am ...**
"fun to be around."


# SOUNDS IMPRESSIVE

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# Soulforce takes on Jerry Falwell, teachings

Lynchburg, Tenn. might never be the same. Soulforce, an interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, has taken on the challenge of Jerry Falwell and his teachings by not only moving within a stone's throw distance of Falwell's church but by organizing a meeting of Soulforce volunteers for Oct. 25 to 27 in the city.

Rev. Mel White and his life partner of more than 20 years, Gary Nixon, co-founders of Soulforce Inc., have leased a home in Lynchburg, Va., directly across the street from Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church. Falwell, a conservative minister, televangelist and chancellor of Liberty University, is well-known for his condemnation of gays and lesbians.

"When we met with Falwell and his supporters in 1999, he promised us that he would tone down his rhetoric against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people," White, executive director of Soulforce, said. "We have been carefully monitoring his untruths, and it has only gotten worse. We can not let this misinformation go unanswered."

In September, White delivered a dinner invitation to Falwell's office, informing him that White and his partner were now neighbors "in fact, as well as in spirit." Falwell declined.

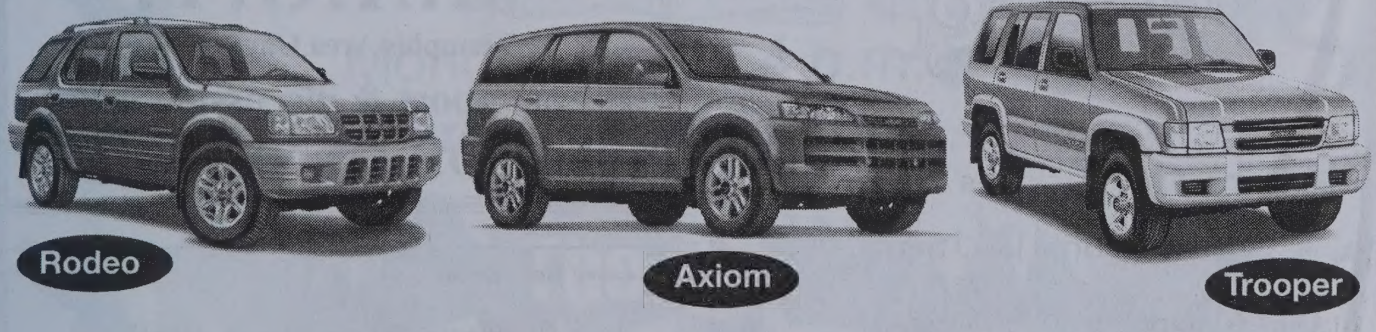
White, who worked with Falwell to ghost-write Falwell's 1984 biography, and Nixon have already attended services at Thomas Road Baptist Church and intend to attend regularly. They plan to restart a PFLAG chapter in Lynchburg; to meet with members of Falwell's church "to give them the opportunity to hear real-life stories of tragedy and inspiration from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals, and to go door-to-door in an effort to 'take the truth' about GLBT people to Lynchburg."

"The truth is that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people can and do lead happy, healthy and productive lives; we love our families, and we are committed to building lasting relationships with our partners," said Karen Weldin, director of operations for Soulforce. "Conversely, Falwell's untruths waste lives, destroy families and lead to terrible suffering. People of Lynchburg need to know us and hear the truth about us!"

Hundreds of GLBT and allied Soulforce volunteers from across the nation will gather in Lynchburg, Oct. 25 to 27. This will mark the three-year anniversary of the initial Soulforce event in Lynchburg, when 200 Soulforce volunteers met with 200 members of Thomas Road Baptist Church. Event plans include a march for equality around Lynchburg; a display of untruths uttered by Falwell answered by truths from mental health professionals, scientists and Bible scholars and training in nonviolent civil disobedience.

For more information, go online to www.soulforce.org.


Freedom of Choice

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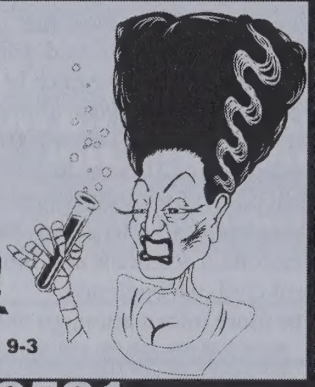
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# Memphis theaters to hold open auditions

**Playhouse on the Square**

Playhouse on the Square is auditioning for *Ragtime* on Monday, Oct. 14, at 6 p.m. Twenty-five to 30 multi-cultural roles are available for men and women, ages 18 and older. Those auditioning need to prepare 16 bars of a song, preferably, but not required, from *Ragtime*. There also may be a cold-reading. *Ragtime*, directed by Dave Landis, runs at Playhouse on the Square May 2 to June 8, 2003.

*Ragtime*, winner of four Tony Awards, is the musical based on the celebrated novel that intertwines the lives of three remarkably different families living through the era that saw immigration and wealth, magic and mystery and, of course, the intoxicating ragtime music that flooded the streets.

For more information, call Courtney Oliver at (901) 725-0776 or email her at courtney@playhouseonthesquare.org.

**Theatre Memphis**

An open call for *An Evening With David Ives*, directed by Brian Mott, is set for Sunday, Oct. 13, at 2 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. Needed are three males, ages 20s to 50s, and three females, ages 20s to 50s.

*An Evening With David Ives* is set to run at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, Jan. 10 to 25, 2003.

Those auditioning need to bring a prepared resume of stage experience. Scripts are available for a three-day maximum check-out from the Theatre Memphis Box Office with a $10 cash deposit, refundable upon timely return of the script.

For more information, call (901) 682-8601.

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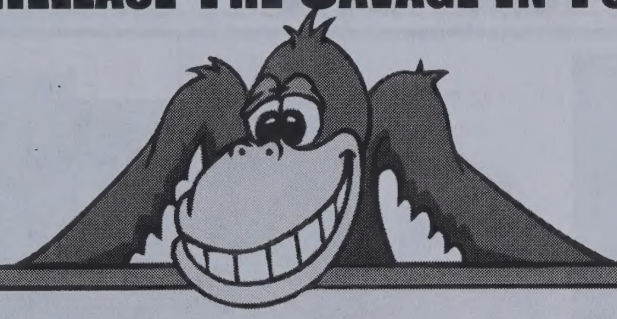

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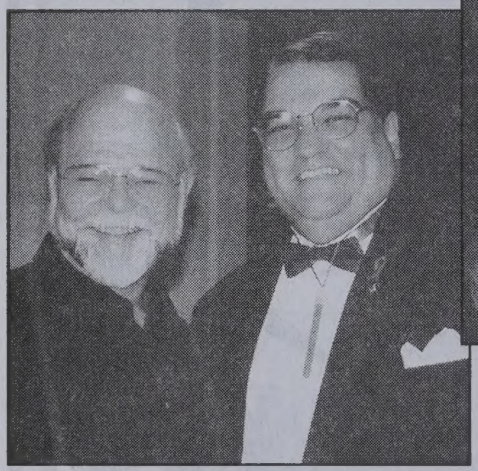
# FAMILY ALBUM

## APATT Dessert Party

Terrance and Jackie

James and Charlie along with Venus Mission girls Aslan, Becky and Leslie.

"Joan" and "Melissa"

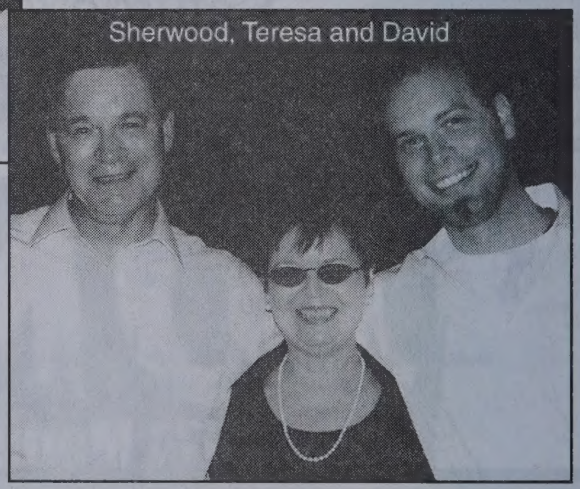


Joel and Chuck

Sandy, Jon and Mimi

Michael and David

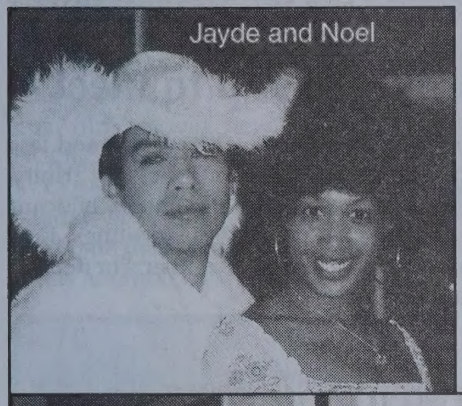
Terry, Scott and Larry

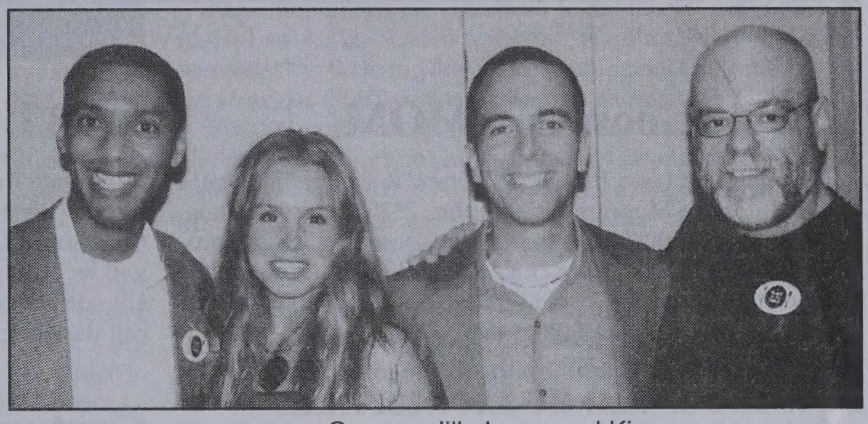


Sherwood, Teresa and David

# FAMILY ALBUM

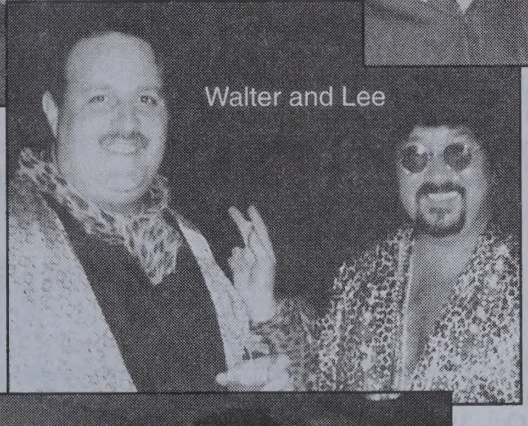
## APATT Dessert Party

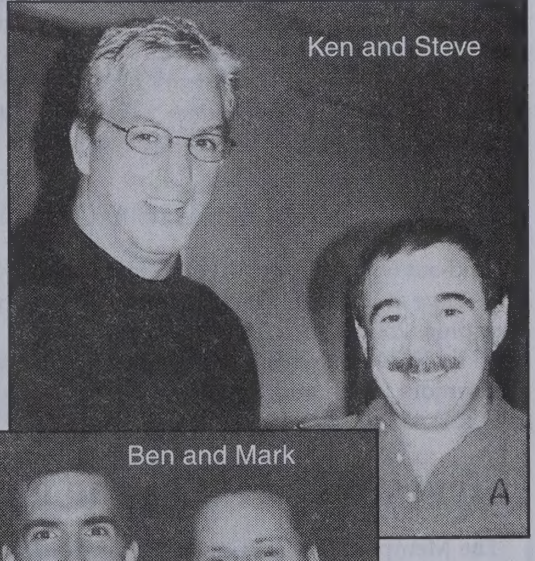

Jayde and Noel


George, Jill, Jason and Kim

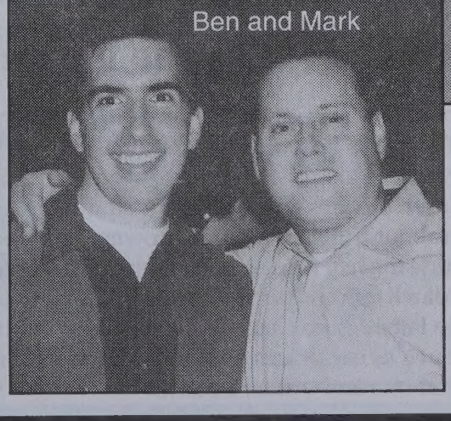
James, Joseph and Ross

Lisa, Sam and Teri


Walter and Lee


Ken and Steve

Ron, Denny, Charles, Gary and Star Queen


Ben and Mark

# For Your FAMILY

**Things for the entire family**

## Mother Goose at CMOM

Join musician Leisa Brown in the new Rising Stars Theatre at the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, for an unforgettable time with Mother Goose rhymes and music on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Admission is $6 for children (ages 1-12) and seniors (62+), and $7 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678.

## Preschool fun at Lichterman

Lichterman Nature Center, located at 5992 Quince Road, invites preschoolers to Raindrops each Tuesday or Wednesday. On Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 10 a.m., and repeated again on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m., the topic will be "Hurray for Hawks." "Lookin' in the Lake" is the subject for Oct. 8 & 9; ""Laughing Leaves" for Oct. 15 & 16; "Creatures of the Night" for Oct. 22 & 23, and "Costumes and Tales" for Oct. 29 & 30. Cost is $5 per child and chaperon. For more information or to register, call (901) 767-7322, ext. 121.

## Caterpillar Club to meet

The Memphis Botanic Gardens, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park, offers preschool children a chance to learn about nature in its Caterpillar Club. On Tuesday, Oct. 15, and again on Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., children will learn about "Spooky Spiders." The cost is $4 per child. For more information, call (901) 685-1566, ext. 102.

## CMOM goes to the dogs

Find out what special job Nitro, Hadley, Hawk, Deputy and Katie have at Search Dogs South at the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Admission is $6 for children (ages 1-12) and seniors (62+), and $7 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678.

## Harvest Festival in the gardens

The Memphis Botanic Garden, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park, will host a harvest festival on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 2 to 5 p.m. Costume-clad instructors and volunteers will staff children's crafts and discovery stations where children can learn about fruits, vegetables, flowers and seeds. Children also can ride the hay wagon; bob for apples from the apple-bobbing tree; search for candy in the haystack; have photos made in the Pumpkin Patch (extra charge), and participate in old-fashioned games such as sack races and horseshoes. Cost is $5 per person; children two and under, free.

## GLBT parenting group to meet

Parents Together, a group for parents who are gay and lesbian, meets the second Thursday of each month at Holy Trinity Community Church, located at 3430 Summer Avenue. Childcare will be provided for younger children at these meetings. Rev. Glynda Hall is the coordinator for Parents Together. For details, call the church office at (901) 320-9376.

## Cartooniversity at library

The cartoon workshop, Cartooniversity, is set for Saturdays, Oct. 5 and 12, beginning at 10:30 a.m., at the Raleigh branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library, located at 3157 Powers. For more information on this workshop for young adults, call (901) 386-5333.

## Mr Chuck to read at libraries

"Mr. Chuck Storytime," for children ages three to five and featuring the popular WKNO children's television personality, is set for Thursday, Oct. 10, at 11:30 a.m., at the Cordova branch library, 1017 North Sanga; Thursday, Oct. 17, at 10:30 a.m., at the Cornelia Crenshaw branch library, 531 Vance Avenue; Wednesday, Oct. 23, at 11 a.m., at the East Shelby branch library, 7200 East Shelby Drive, and Thursday, Oct. 31, at 10:30 a.m., at the Central library branch, 3030 Poplar Avenue.

## CMOM to host Pumpkin Patch

It's Halloween without the howls at The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue. Celebrate with safe, non-frightening activities in the Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pumpkin Patch is an interactive learning environment that offers children excursions through Autumn Atrium, Spider Station, Weird Science Lab and Shadowland.

In the autumn Atrium, visitors weigh and measure different size pumpkins and decorate their own treat bags with leaf shapes and stamps. They also can help a squirrel puppet search for nuts and seeds in piles of leaves.

Children gaze at a live tarantula and other spiders and then make their own spider craft in Spider Station. They also can weave a spider web and try to maneuver their way through a giant spider web maze without getting "caught."

In the Weird Science Lab, children conduct experiments with wacky concoctions and magnets. They even make their own fizzing "potion."

The cost to visit Pumpkin Patch is $4 per person. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling the museum at (901) 458-2678. Museum admission is not included in this price.

# OutFlix 2002 film festival to note NCOD

BY LAINE MCNEIL
STAFF WRITER

In observance of National Coming Out Day (NCOD), the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center will host its annual film festival, newly-renamed OutFlix, to coincide with NCOD, which is celebrated Friday, Oct. 11.

OutFlix 2002 is scheduled for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10-13, with most of the events taking place at Malco's Studio on the Square cinema complex, located in Midtown. Saturday afternoon's events will be held in the First Congo Theater, located at First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper.

Trembling Before G-D

MGLCC is billing this year's film festival as, "The Mid-South's only film festival dedicated to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered communities with special films addressing the needs of our youth community."

Nine major films are scheduled to be shown during the film festival, as well as "dozens of shorts." The films, shorts and documentaries depict living life openly, coming out and dealing with the struggles GLBT persons encounter during their lives.

Two Memphis-based films are included on this year's lineup, *Eli Parker Is Getting Married?*, written and directed by Memphian Mark Jones, and *A Star Is Bored*, a documentary written by University of Memphis graduate Kevin Dean.

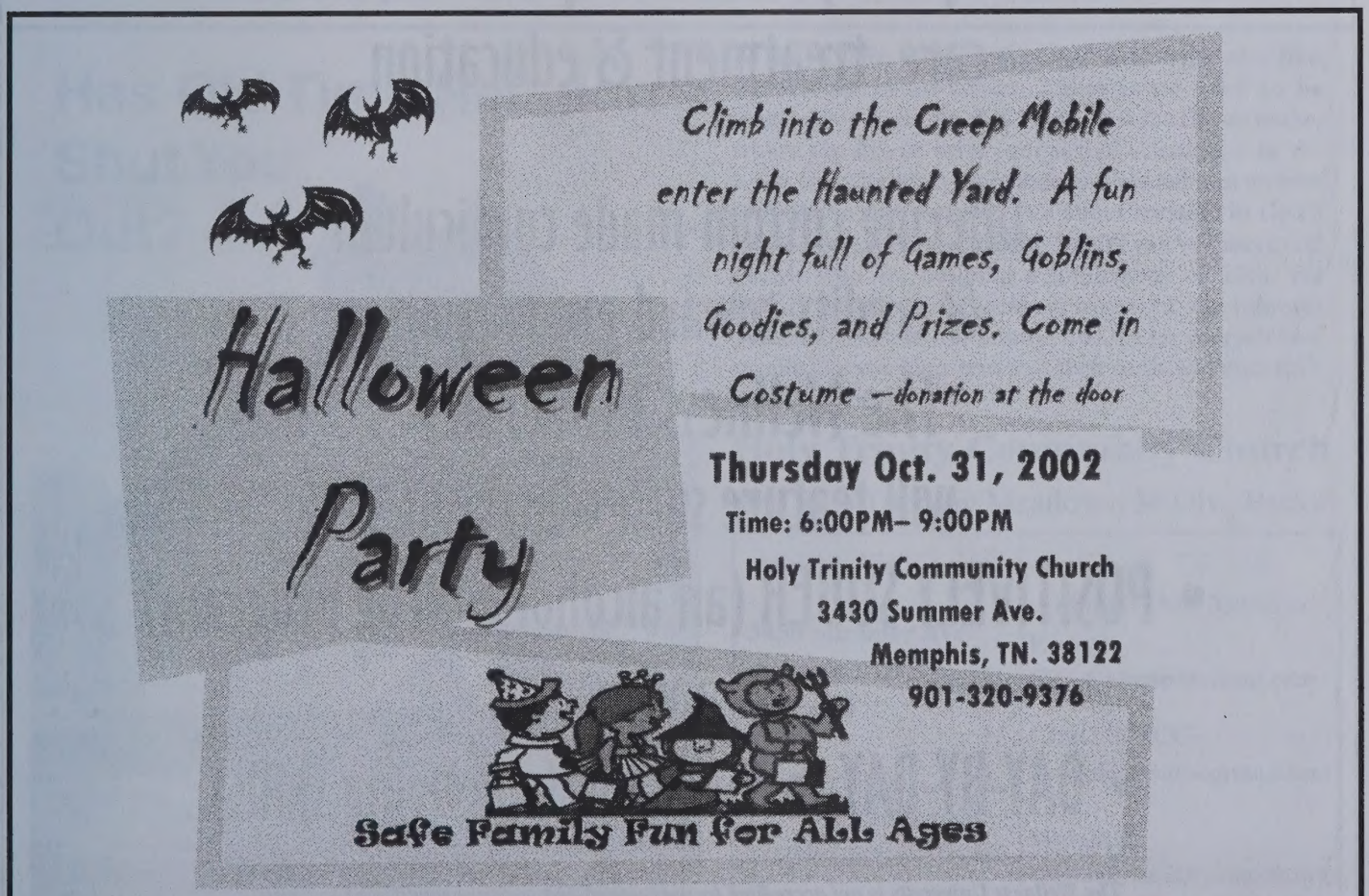
*Eli Parker Is Getting Married?* is the story of one man's adventures the night before he is to be wed. Showtimes are Thursday, Oct. 10, at 9 p.m., and Friday, Oct. 11, at 11 a.m., both at Malco.

*A Star Is Bored* details the life and times of one of the area's most infamous drag divas, Star Queen. Need we say more? Showtime is Saturday, Oct. 12, following an 8 p.m. showing of *Three Minutes Based On The Revolution Of The Sun* at First Congo.

The award-winning documentary, which shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality and religious fundamentalism, *Trembling Before G-D*, will get OutFlix started with its first showing at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, at Malco. A second showing is set for 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, at Malco.

Built around intimately-told personal stories of Hasidic and

**See OutFlix, page 35**



Halloween Party
Climb into the Creep Mobile enter the Haunted Yard. A fun night full of Games, Goblins, Goodies, and Prizes. Come in Costume –donation at the door
Thursday Oct. 31, 2002
Time: 6:00PM– 9:00PM
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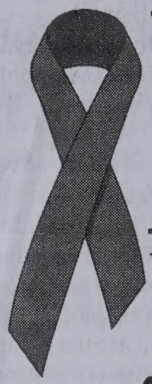
Safe Family Fun for ALL Ages

# *Coming soon to Memphis ....*



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# FAMILY ALBUM

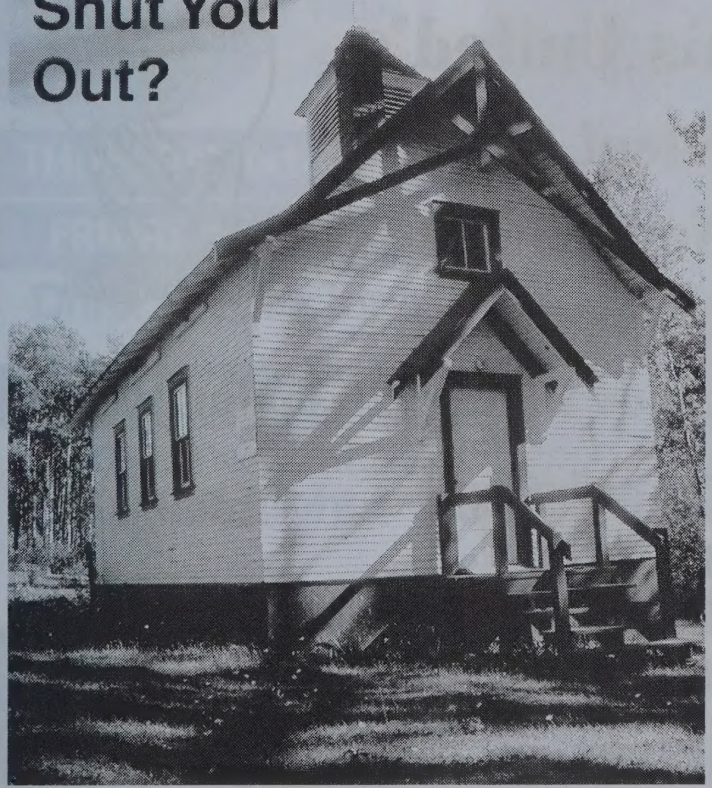
## Mystic Krewe of MU Fundraiser for Memphis Pride Inc.

Mystic Krewe of Memphis United Founder Linda Jones, left, and Krewe member Alison Tate relax before the show at J-Wags.

Mystic Krewe of Memphis United Emcee and member Alison Tate reads from a letter from the Memphis Pride Inc. Board during the show.

Diva Sofonda Peters and J-Wags Owner Tommy Stewart share an intimate moment before the show.


Has Old Time Religion Shut You Out?



**At Holy Trinity Community Church we know what that experience is all about. There is no need to be pretensious here. We don't care how much you make, where you live or what your sexual orientation is. We know that church is more than endless debates on who is "in" and who is "out." It's about trusting in God's leading for our lives. At Holy Trinity you will meet real people who are building a community of faith. We feature good music, casual environment and relevant preaching. Join us this Sunday and see for yourself how people like you have renewed their faith. Religion isn't a dirty word anymore.**

**Holy Trinity Community Church**

The Rev. Timothy Meadows, M.Div., Pastor

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| | **Chat: HTCC-Memphis@yahoogroups.com** |
| **Sunday: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.** | |
| **Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.** | **Website: www.holytrinitymemphis.org** |

# P.J. Newton is proud sole-owner of Casablanca

BY LAINE MCNEIL
STAFF WRITER

P.J. Newton has traveled a road from humble beginnings in a small Mississippi town all the way to the bright, big city lights of Memphis.

Newton cut her teeth in the world of gay nightclubs when she opened the gay bar O'Harah's just outside Tupelo, Miss. Now, the club exists as Rumors.

Today, Newton, a native of Booneville, Miss., is the proud owner of Casablanca Bistro and Cabaret, located at 2865 Walnut Grove Road.

"On a personal level, I'm proud that I've been able to come from a small town to Memphis and, in a short period of time, accomplish what I have," she told *Family & Friends*.

The "accomplishment" Newton is referring to is how in six months she has gone from being a partner in Best Buds LLC, to being the sole owner of the business, which operates Casablanca.

"Casablanca is owned by a company called Best Buds LLC," she explained. "Best Buds LLC was a partnership between Len Piechowski and myself when Casablanca opened April 19 (of this year). Then, last month (August), I was able to buy out Len's interest in Best Buds LLC, so now I'm the sole owner of Casablanca."

Piechowski said he didn't have to think very long about Newton's offer to buy out his interest in Best Buds.

"When Casablanca opened, P.J. and I were the sole members of the LLC," he said. "She made me an offer to buy my shares of the corporation in late August. After thinking it over for a day, I accepted her offer."

In recalling the long hours and stress of opening a new restaurant and nightclub, Piechowski said he has found memories.

"P.J. and I had a lot of fun starting up Casablanca together," he said.

*Play it again, P.J.* — P.J. Newton relaxes at Casablanca's piano.

**See Casablanca, page 44**


# The Mystic Krewe of Memphis United's 4th Annual Silent Auction

## Sunday, November 3

## 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Gould's Salon & Day Spa • Peabody Hotel • 120 Union Avenue**

**Lots of Fabulous Items to Bid On, including**
**TRIPS • HAIR STYLING & PRODUCTS • ART • JEWELRY • GIFT BASKETS • HOMEMADE QUILTS • COUNTRY HAMS**
**PLUS ... EXCLUSIVE ELVIS MEMORABILIA!**

**Admission $5.00 donation**

*The Mystic Krewe of Memphis United's Mardi Gras Ball 2003 to benefit Hope House*

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**Show Us Yours For Drink Specials 10p - 1a**

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Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

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Enter the **Dungeon** Halloween Bash

**THURSDAY october 31**

**FRIDAY november 1**

Drink Specials for All

**SATURDAY november 2**

Costume Contest @ Midnight

**LIVE DJ EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT**

## The Pumping Station

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HALLOWEEN | 2002 | HALLOWEEN 2002 | HALLOWEEN 2002

# STRAIGHT UP *but not straight*

**By J. Shane Wilson, MS, NCC, LPCC**

**Dear Straight Up,**

**My girlfriend and I have been toying with the idea of having a commitment ceremony, but a few weeks ago I went out of town on business and I got back yesterday. She told me that she cheated on me twice with two different people when I was away and she couldn't really help it because she has cheated on almost every one of her significant others. I don't want to break it off with her. She is the most amazing woman in the world! But she doubts she could ever stop cheating. I don't know what I should do. She said she only did it because I left and she missed me and wanted to feel special even if only for a moment, and I believe her.**

**Stray Cat**

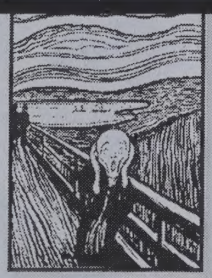
Dear "While the cat's away...,"

First of all, that "I only did it because you left and I missed you and wanted to feel special even if only for a moment" line is a CROCK OF %&)*. I hope you didn't fall for that.

As for the rest of your letter, here's the problem as I see it: You love this woman; she cheated on you, and she is going to cheat on you again. To her credit, and my applause for being honest, your girlfriend placed all her cards on the table — she's messed around on every person she's been with and, what's more, she "doubts" she'll ever be able to stop.

Let's read between the lines, shall we? When she says she "doubts she could ever stop cheating," what she means is, "I like cheating, and I have no intentions of ever being faithful to you or any other person." Is she a terrible person? No. Should you dump her? Depends. She leveled with you – which is more than most serial adulterers ever do – and now you get to make an informed decision: Do you want to be with the "most amazing woman in the world," even if this amazing woman cheats on you regularly? Or do you want to dump her and go find someone less amazing, but more faithful?

*J. Shane Wilson has a master's degree in the counseling field from The University of Memphis. He presently is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Kentucky and is the executive director of a residential treatment facility, located in Louisville. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the magazine. For serious problems, seek professional help. Send questions to* Family & Friends, *P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, or email them to FamilyMag@aol.com.*

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## OutFlix

from page 29

Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian, *Trembling Before G-D* portrays a group of people who face a profound dilemma – how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality.

Get ready for the sexy suspense thriller, *The MO of MI (The Modus Operandi Of Male Intimacy)*, which will be shown Saturday, Oct. 12, at 9 a.m. at Malco. Michael and Tom are a happy couple until Jonathon enters their lives. A dangerous game of double-crossing, blackmail and murder unfolds, revealing you never know who you can trust.

Then, at noon on Saturday, stick around and meet the directors of *The MO of MI*, also at Malco.

It's a pretty astounding accomplishment to live to be 100, but add in the mix being an African-American lesbian and you've got the makings of the award-winning documentary, *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100*. Filmmaker Yvonne Welbon uses interviews, photographs, archival footage and dazzling dramatic recreations to tell the tale of Ellis, who before her death in 2000, was the oldest known out African-American lesbian. *Living With Pride* will be the first of several films to be shown in the First Congo Theater on Saturday, Oct. 12. This film begins at 2 p.m.

**See OutFlix, page 43**


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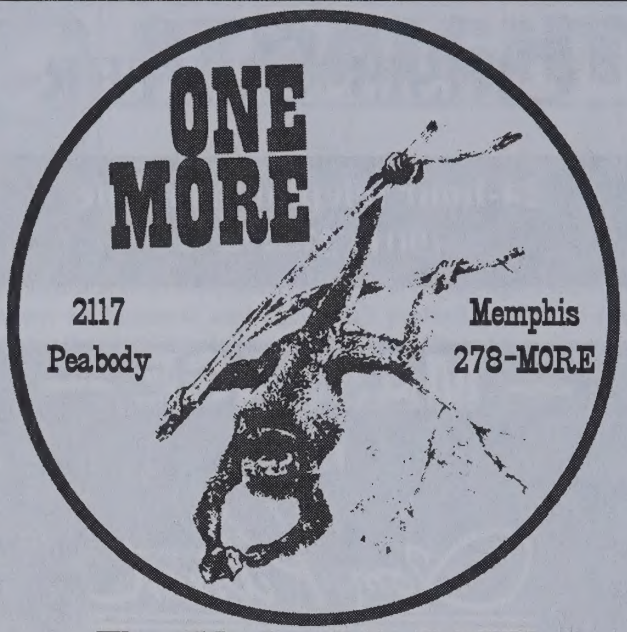


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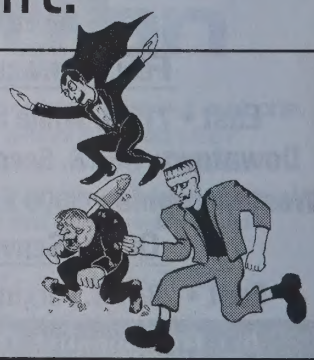

## Your Point Is

from page 4

But there will be as many middle, upper-middle and upper class folks doing the same. We know of several individuals who have gambling problems, even leading to hot checks and unpaid markers at the casinos, and they are anything but "economically-disadvantaged" in terms of their gross wages. So we suggest income is no indicator of an individual's probability of having a gambling addiction nor of their ability to control the number of lottery tickets they choose or don't choose to buy.

We wonder what would happen should an "economically-disadvantaged" person suddenly win a cool million in the lottery and, thus, become far richer than those who say he or she isn't responsible or intelligent enough to play the lottery. We wonder how long it would take for the Baptists to make a friendly visit to the winner to tell them how they would like to invite him or her to their church, as well as to solicit a donation for the church's building fund.

Our only reservation about a lottery is that it is governed by the "Tennessee-we-need-money-raise-the-taxes" bureaucracy and there seems to be a black hole in Nashville where the infinite tax money seems to vanish into. But, that is another editorial.

For more on the lottery, check out page xx in this issue.

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# HIV/AIDS EDUCATION 101

**By Norman Foster, guest writer**
**Outreach Coordinator, Infectious Diseases, STD/HIV/AIDS**
**Memphis & Shelby County Health Department**

*Question: I am a heterosexual woman; why should I be concerned about HIV/AIDS?*

Answer: It is important for you to know about HIV because heterosexual females are the population with the greatest increase of newly reported HIV cases. HIV is a worldwide problem. You should find out all you can about HIV and the modes of transmission so that you can protect yourself and others.

HIV is transmitted primarily through vaginal, anal and/or oral sexual contact, as well as through sharing needles with an infected individual. A mother can also infect her child through the birth process and/or breast feeding.

You can protect yourself by using a latex condom every time you have sex and by not sharing needles. If you share needles, clean your needles with a 10 percent bleach and water solution.

My suggestion is that you first find out your HIV status. Secondly, encourage any sex and/or needle-sharing partner(s) to find out their own HIV status by being tested, as well. (Testing sites are listed below.)

Remember, it is not who you are that puts you at risk for HIV, it is what you do that puts you at risk. The only safe sex is no sex. However, if this is not an option for you, then arming yourself with the facts about HIV and AIDS is a start. Nevertheless, just knowing about HIV is not enough. You must practice what you know about HIV prevention to protect yourself and others from HIV. Together, we can win the war against HIV and AIDS.

## HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES & INFORMATION

**Memphis & Shelby County Health Department**
**814 Jefferson Avenue, Room 221**
**7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.**
**Testing conducted on teens, ages 13 and up, without parental consent.**
**HIV Test Cost: FREE**
**For more information, call (901) 544-6808**

**Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood**
**1407 Union Avenue, Third Floor**
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**8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday**
**FREE OraSure testing for ages 13-24**
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Agencies provide HIV counseling and testing at various health fairs and community events throughout the year.

## *HIV/AIDS news in brief —*

• According to a Sept. 7, 2002, article in the New Orleans's *Times-Picayune*, Irish rock-star Bono has teamed up with five Christian music executives to produce a three-minute public service announcement to promote HIV/AIDS awareness through Christian music venues. The focus is on the global AIDS crisis and urges viewers to contact political leaders and Debt, AIDS, Trade for Africa (DATA), an organization Bono is affiliated with.

• The *Mobile (Ala.) Register* reported on Sept. 8 that heterosexual women now have taken the lead statistically as the fastest-growing population with HIV/AIDS in Mobile County, Ala. The articles states that "education efforts have helped stem the spread of the virus among men who have sex with men."

• One of the newer topics in the HIV/AIDS news is that of AIDS "superinfections," where one person can be infected by one strain of HIV at one time and then be infected by a second strain of HIV later. Although at this time a rare occurrence, a superinfection can make treating the disease that more difficult. Because of this, condom use is even more important, even among individuals that are both HIV-positive.

• The BBC news reported in September that Dr. Andrew Lever and his team of researchers at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom are investigating ways to use HIV to combat organ rejection in heart transplant recipients. These and other researchers are using a modified HIV in their studies, HIV that lacks genetic material. They hope the HIV will suppress the immune system in the local vicinity of its target, i.e. heart, liver or brain.

• The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported on Sept. 15 that human trails for an Emory University HIV vaccine that uses a "two-step strategy" involving DNA injections are set to begin in early October on approximately 30 volunteers at the University of Alabama, the University of Washington and the University of California–San Francisco. Emory's Harriet Robinson has pioneered the "DNA shot" approach in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This approach attempts to activate the body's "killer cells," which track and destroy infected cells.

• Formula One's Racing Team Sauber Petronas, which sponsors drivers Nick Heidfeld and Felope Massa, will feature HIV/AIDS awareness slogans on its cars in Formula One races in Monza, Italy; Indianapolis, Ind., and Suzuka, Japan, according to a Sept. 12 report by *Canadian Press*. The cars, seen by an average of 350 million people worldwide, will feature the slogan "STOP-AIDS" and will be decorated with a red ribbon.

• As promised, the South African version of "Sesame Street" introduced a new character in September – a five-year old HIV-positive, orphaned Muppet, named Kami. According to a Sept. 17 AP/*San Francisco Chronicle* article, Kami was introduced to "create a culture of acceptance" in South Africa, where it is estimated that one in nine adults are HIV-positive. At present, there are no plans to introduce Kami or a similar character on the U.S. version of "Sesame Street."

# ABOUT TOWN

## When You're Looking For Something To Do

## Memphis history to be voiced

Actress and storyteller Hester Johnson Moore will present "16 in '68" at the Central branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Libraries, located at 3030 Poplar Avenue, in Meeting Room C, on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 3 p.m. Moore will tell her story in a dramatic account of "Black Monday," a massive walkout of high school students in support of the 1968 Sanitation Strike in Memphis. This event is sponsored by a grant from LHS Inc. For more information, call (901) 415-2726.

## Japanese flower arranging set

The Ikebana School is set for Mondays, Oct. 7 and Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park. Ikebana members teach Japanese flower arranging. The fee for this class is $8 plus the cost of flowers, which is $5 on average. For more information, call Jane at (901) 685-1163.

## African folklore to be explored

Experience the varied cultures of the African continent in "Under African Skies" at the Sharpe Planetarium, located in the Pink Palace Museum at 3050 Central Avenue, now through Jan. 25, 2003. An understanding of the stars, the Milky Way and even the origin of shooting stars were revealed in stories passed down through the ages by the Bushman tribes, the Zulu, Masai, Ashanti and others. Showtimes are 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays and 4 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is $4.25 for adults and $3.75 for seniors and children (ages three to 12). For more information and reservations, call (901) 320-6362.

## Rose show slated at MBG

The Dixie Rose Show and Sale is set for Sunday, Oct. 6, at Memphis Botanic Gardens, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call (901) 386-9892.

## Dual workshops set at library

The Central branch library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, will host two free informational workshops addressing cancer in October. On Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 2 p.m., Jill M. Yelland, M.S., in "Cancer: Is It In Your Genes?," will discuss the use of genetic counseling in the fight against various forms of cancer. And on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m., Dr. Irvin Fleming will present "Breast Cancer Update," discussing the latest medical practices and wisdom related to treating and preventing breast cancer. For more information, call (901) 415-2734.

## Integrity to meet October 15

Integrity Memphis will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second and Adams. A short worship service begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. At 7:45 p.m. the evening's program will feature Emmett Bell, chef at Calvary Church, who will cook up a few of his favorite recipes while those attending pick up a few culinary tidbits. For more information, go online to www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html.

## Social Security info offered

A representative of the Social Security Administration will present a seminar on Social Security Retirement and Medicare, including information on how to file, monthly benefits and more, at the Poplar-White Station branch library, 5094 Poplar Avenue, on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (901) 682-1616.

## 30-Something, Up group to meet

The "30-Something and Up" group, a program of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month with service projects scheduled in between. This is an opportunity for anyone over 30 years of age to meet new friends and engage in social activities outside of the "normal bar-type settings." For more information, call Coordinator Bryan Moody at (901) 680-9218 or email him at BryanorScott@hotmail.com.

## Carol Plunk busy in October

Musician Carol Plunk, solo and with her band, will be performing at the following locations in October: Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 p.m., at The Aquarium in Little Rock, Ark., with band; Sunday, Oct. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m., at One More Bar & Grill, located at 2117 Peabody; Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., at One More; Thursday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m., at The New Daisy Theatre, with band; Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., at T.J. Mulligans in Jackson, Tenn., with band; Sunday, Oct. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m., at One More; Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m., at One More; Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 p.m., at P&H Cafe, 1532 Madison Avenue, performing with Kim Richardson; Sunday, Oct. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m., at One More; Monday through Saturday, Oct. 21 to 26, noon to 5 p.m. daily, at Horseshoe Casino, Tunica, Miss., with band and special guest, Kim Richardson; Wednesday, Oct. 23, 7 to 9 p.m., at One More; Sunday, Oct. 27, 5 to 7 p.m., at One More, and Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. at One More.

# Legendary Larry Kramer feels 45 with new liver

BY REX WOCKNER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Eight months after getting a new liver to replace the one destroyed by chronic-active hepatitis-B, author and gay/AIDS activist legend Larry Kramer, 67, said he feels like he's 45, the age of his liver donor.

I wanted to go to Connecticut to interview Larry in person but he wanted to do it on the phone to minimize the disruption to his writing – the magnum opus he's been tackling for several years.

**Rex: How's the new liver working?**

Larry: The liver is superb – the best liver any liver ever was. I've been exceedingly lucky. It worked from the get-go. ... I'm very, very lucky. They changed the way people who need livers are evaluated in February. The old system didn't work particularly well, but the new system seems to be rather discriminatory against people with HIV or hepatitis-B. I don't know whether that was intentional or not but that's the way it's turning out. So, that's going to be a big stink, I hope. ... They only look at certain blood levels (to determine who is eligible for a transplant) and in people co-infected with HIV, it's possible to be very sick (from hepatitis-B liver destruction) and yet not have these bad blood levels.

**Rex: You sound younger.**

Larry: I got a liver of a 45 year-old man. My surgeon, in all seriousness, said you're as old as your liver, so I'll take it.

**Rex: I assume they put you on some anti-hepatitis-B drugs and some gamma globulin to keep the new liver free of hepatitis-B?**

Larry: Hopefully, we'll never have to worry about that. When you're co-infected (with HIV and hepatitis-B) and you get a liver, you have to go on the (anti-HIV) cocktail, which I was not on up till now because I didn't need it. My HIV markers are pretty much what they were before I went on the cocktail, which is a viral load of about 500 and T-cells of 440. I take the new hepatitis-B wonder drug, adefovir, and also, once a month, I get hepatitis-B immune globulin shots or IV. They can't find hepatitis-B in my system at all. They won't say it's gone away, but they won't say that it hasn't.

**Rex: Have you been tempted toward activism around hepatitis-B?**

Larry: There's a great deal of activism going on, mostly on the Internet. ... The most important thing that I'm working on ... is that we have to change the way organs are collected in this country. There are not enough of them and signing the back of your driver's license is not providing enough organs. ... In Belgium and Holland, everybody is deemed to be (a) donor unless they register otherwise. How you do that (here) is what we're investigating. ... We want to do it the simplest way and the fastest way. If we can somehow bring it about in this county, we'd have a massive amount of organs for doctors to transplant with.

**Rex: When you get an organ transplant, you have to take immune-suppressing drugs to prevent rejection of the organ. How does that work with someone whose immune system is already suppressed by HIV?**

Larry: The one advantage to being HIV-positive that I have found is that you don't need very much in the way of immune-suppressing drugs, which is wonderful. If I did not have HIV, I would be taking tons of them, and those are the hardest drugs to deal with.

**Rex: You're in Connecticut writing the big book you've been writing for quite awhile.**

Larry: I'm back on the tome.

**Rex: This is the one with the Abraham Lincoln section.**

Larry: That he's gay. I hope that Dr. C.A. Tripp's book will be out way before mine. He's writing a book on just this. He's getting on in years. He's 82. I keep calling him up and saying, "Dr Tripp, please finish this book before you die." He's shown me his evidence (on Lincoln) – I've got my own – but he's shown me his, which is irrefutable.

**Rex: How much longer till we see the book?**

Larry: Don't you start, too. It'll be finished when it's finished.

**Rex: What do you think of George W.'s AIDS efforts?**

Larry: Why don't you just ask what I think of George W.? I think he's a laughable, stupid a**hole. Every time he opens his mouth, he hangs himself a little bit more. I hope that by the time the election rolls around, he will have hung himself so successfully that he won't run for anything except the door. It just makes me cringe every time I hear him open his mouth.

**Rex: What are you paying attention to on the AIDS front these days?**

Larry: There are enough drugs out there now that most people with HIV are going to live normal lives. That's a real awakening. ... So, in terms of the drugs, that seems to be self-perpetuating and is taking care of itself. ... I like more to go against the system where you've got to knock your head against the wall, like this organ-donor change thing. If I can help to change that, that will be historic. We're just starting. I was six months in Pittsburgh (where the transplant took place).

**Rex: I guess it's nothing like "Queer as Folk."**

Larry: Oh, that is such a crock. You can't find the homosexuals in Pittsburgh, much less the gay bars. I know they are there, but boy, are they low-profile. The thought that all that is taking place in Pittsburgh is just hyperbole of a grand order. ... It's a very nice town. It's very conservative and straight. There's an awful lot of churches. It's pleasant. It's hard to find a great meal. But people are exceedingly nice.

**Rex: How bad was the operation?**

Larry: Is wasn't all that bad. I was never in any pain. It takes a long time to get your body back, your reflexes, you lose a lot of weight, a lot of muscle mass. ... The rehab is slow.

**Rex: Are you back to normal activities yet?**

Larry: Oh, God, yes. I just came from my trainer, I do Pilates, I swim, I work out on my weights downstairs here. I'm 45, remember.

**Rex: Do you have a cool scar?**

Larry: Yes. Most of it is fading and my chest hair is covering it up. When you have liver disease, all your body hair falls off. For a couple of years, I was hairless ... My hair has grown back, and it's grown back all black. No gray hair. ... It's fun to show

See Larry Kramer, page 41

## Larry Kramer

from page 40

off a scar.

**Rex: There's probably a scar fetish community online.**

Larry: It was a very large scar. It looked like the peace symbol. It goes from just under your collar bone all the way down to your belly button. They open you up and pull your ribs apart. I have a film of the operation. I haven't had the nerve to look at it yet. The operation took 17 hours.

But I just popped right back. ... I feel like I felt many years ago. I don't take naps. I eat whatever I want to and don't gain weight. It's truly wonderful and I'm very aware of what a miracle it's all been.

I never had to take all these (HIV) drugs. I never had an (AIDS) opportunistic infection. I never had bad blood work. And yet, everyone I know who got infected (with HIV) at the same time now is dead. And then when I did get sick with hep B, there was this experimental drug called adefovir that calmed my hepatitis B down long enough until someone at the NIH (National Institutes of Health) said a liver was available.

A number of people helped save my life, but (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director) Dr. Anthony Fauci saved my life. He saw me one day somewhere and said I looked sick and he put me in the NIH hospital – and I was sick, with end-stage liver disease. It suddenly had a name. Through the NIH I got put on a protocol for adefovir. And at the NIH, Dr. Judy Falloon, Tony's right hand on AIDS treatment, said to me, "I think you are eligible for a liver transplant," and she wouldn't let up until I got on a list somewhere. Tony was there every single minute to check how I was doing, and still does so. He has become the most wonderful and amazing and, yes, loving friend. How about that for the ironies of life? (Fauci was an early target of ACT UP, which Kramer co-founded -Ed.)


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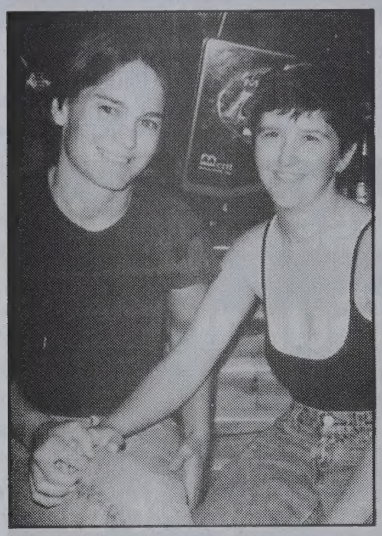
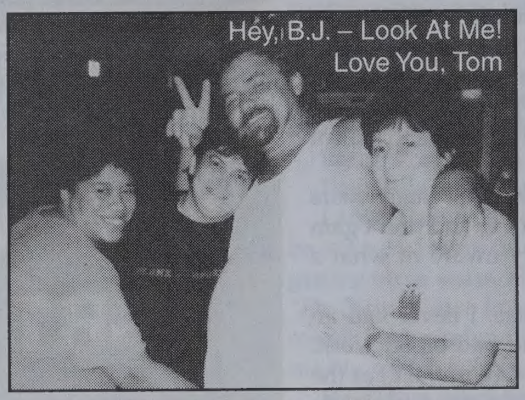
# FAMILY ALBUM

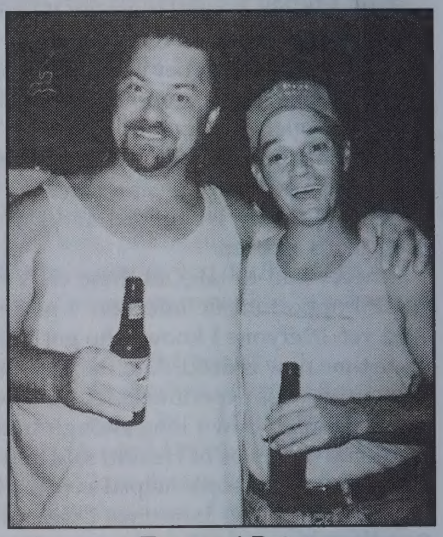
## Hanging Out at One More



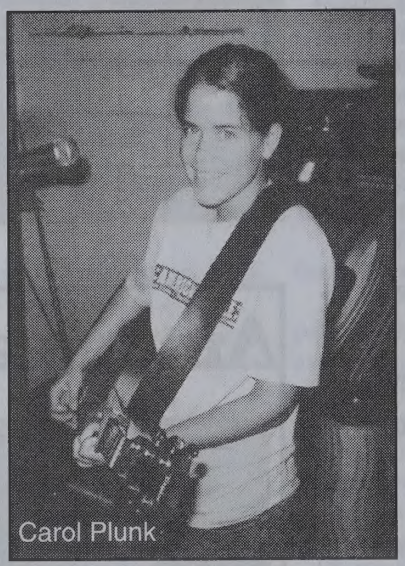
Rebecca and Chickie

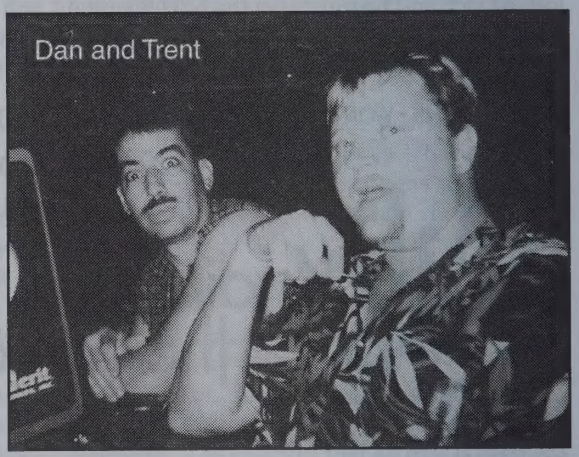



Mai, Jeri, Tom and Tina



Tom and Pete





Vergie Ann and Francis Jean

Bone's Birthday Party – Having Fun!

## OutFlix

from page 35

*My Left Breast* is a video diary of one woman's experience with breast cancer, but it's not what you would expect. The honesty and humor (there are wig quilting bees) with which filmmaker Gerry Rogers treats her cancer makes viewers laugh, cry, often at the same time. *My Left Breast* is scheduled to be shown Saturday at 4 p.m., along with *Body: A Woman's Definition*, at First Congo.

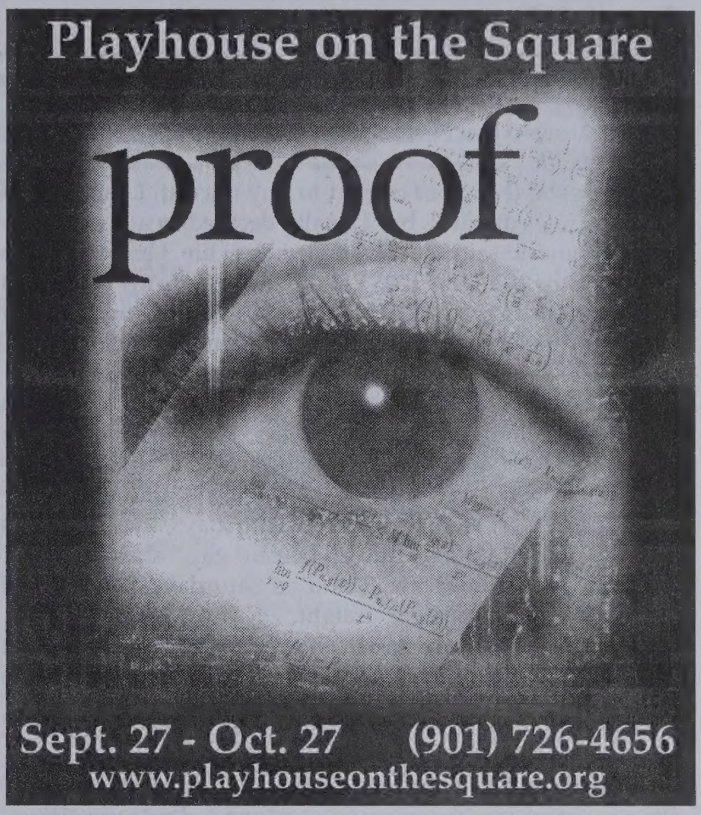
*Body: A Woman's Definition* takes a look at the world of women's bodybuilding, as five women prepare for the Gay Games in Amsterdam.

Geared specifically towards GLBT youth, *Youth OUT Loud*, is a documentary that addresses the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth in our schools. The film chronicles the real life stories of youth in high school. *Youth OUT Loud* will be shown Saturday at 6 p.m. at First Congo.

Closing OutFlix 2002, Sunday, Oct. 13, at 9 a.m., will be *Hope Along The Wind: The Life Of Harry Hay*, an award-winning documentary that details the fascinating and extraordinary life of Harry Hay, labor organizer, Marxist teacher and one of the first gay rights activists in the country. The film will be shown at Malco.

Tickets for OutFlix 2002 are $5 per time slot or $20 for a weekend pass. All seats are on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit the OutFlix 2002 website at www.outflix.org.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## Casablanca

from page 32

He also noted that Newton's offer of a buyout came at a good time in his life.

"When she (Newton) offered to buy me out, I had a lot of mixed feelings about it, but I finally decided to accept the offer," Piechowski said. "At this time in my life, I am coming to grips with my alcoholism and in order to assure my continued sobriety, I was in the process of trying to simplify my life. Her offer was timely. Now, I can focus on Friends For Life (where Piechowski is employed), on community service and on me."

When asked if she is pleased with how Casablanca has grown in the past six months, Newton replied, "I'm very happy with the business. I'm happy that we've been able to divide the clientele 50/50 between the gay and straight communities.

"On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the clientele is about 75 percent straight and 25 percent gay," she continued. "On Fridays it's about 50/50, and on Saturdays, it's about 75 percent gay and 25 percent straight."

When a person opens any business, they usually do so with a vision of what they want that business to become. Newton is no exception.

"My vision, when Casablanca opened, was to have a place where everyone could come together, even with the drag shows," she said. "I wanted to be able to bring the straights in and show them we're okay."

Has Casablanca lived up to Newton's expectations?

"For the most part, yes it has," she said. "Now, since the buyout, it's coming closer to my vision. Although my vision hasn't changed, my focus for Casablanca has."

She said upscale entertainment has become her new focus.

"I'm focusing now more on upscale, out-of-town entertainers coming in, including female impersonators," Newton noted, "for instance, Charlie Brown and her whole cast from Atlanta. I want Casablanca to be known as the classy, upscale entertainment complex in town. Memphis didn't have a classy bar when we opened Casablanca, and I wanted to give one to them. That's what the people had been asking for."

Where does Newton see Casablanca a year from now?

"I hope to be moved to a bigger building," she began. "I envision more pageantry, such as a preliminary pageant to Miss Gay America being held here. I want to bring in more entertainers from all around the Mid-South. I want to start booking out-of-town DJs from places like Atlanta and New York City. I hope we continue to grow with both the straight and gay clientele.

"I would like to move Casablanca closer to the river," she continued. "Hopefully within a year we can be. I'm just not happy with the present location."

Piechowski told *Family & Friends* he is confident in Newton's extended vision of Casablanca.

**See Casablanca, page 49**

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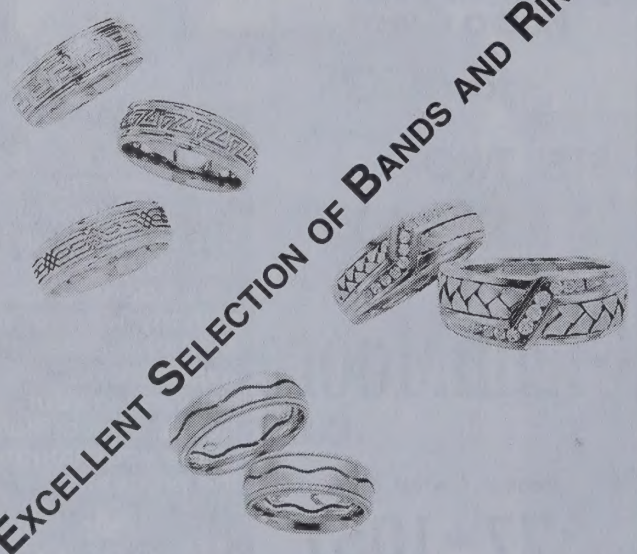

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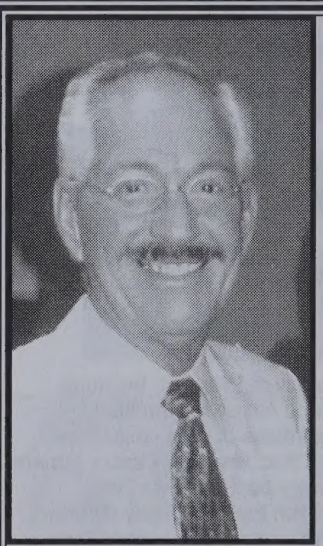

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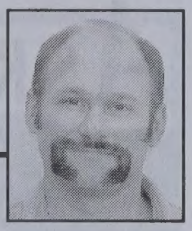
# QUOTE ... UNQUOTE



## By Rex Wockner

"Give me a frigging break. I've been a frigging diva for 40 frigging years. This is the last time I'm going to do this."

**— Cher at a concert in Las Vegas after fans booed when she said it was her last tour, as reported by the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Aug. 13.**

"I grew up with my sister who's a lesbian. And when she came out of the closet, as she put it, I thought, wow, that makes sense. She was always the one who wanted to be the Lone Ranger, and I guess I was Tonto."

**— Singer Cyndi Lauper to Miami's *The Weekly News*, Aug. 29.**

"The real reason I'm praying that *Hairspray*, the Broadway musical based on my 1988 movie, succeeds is that if it's a hit, there will be high school productions, and finally the fat girl and the drag queen will get the starring parts."

**— John Waters writing in the Aug. 11 *New York Times*.**

"I've always, as an outsider myself, gravitated to the gay community and found some of the most amusing, brilliant people."

**— Actress Susan Sarandon to *Out* magazine, September issue.**

"I have one? I love it. Is that true? Oh my gosh! That's great."

**— Actress Gwyneth Paltrow when asked by PlanetOut.com, "How do you feel about your lesbian following," Aug. 19.**

"I am a gay performer. I talk about queer life, and the majority of my work revolves around queer culture. How could I not be a gay performer? Just because I don't identify myself sexually as a lesbian or bisexual or anything doesn't mean that I can't live a gay life."

**— Comedian Margaret Cho to the *Houston Voice*, Aug. 23.**

"I used to like her but I don't anymore because she goes around shooting pheasants. She's trying to be all English. I've seen pictures of (her and her husband) going out and shooting innocent birds. What did they ever do to her? She's got enough feathers."

**— Boy George on Madonna to *The Advocate*, Oct. 1 issue.**

"I was never opposed to gay adoption. Is it better for a kid to be in a foster system that's chaotic, or to be in a nice, stable home with two people who love him? It took me 10 seconds to figure that out."

**— Fox News' Bill O'Reilly as quoted by the *Washington Times*, Aug. 29.**

"Basically it came down to, why wouldn't we run it? We ran no letters on it and we lost one subscriber. Clearly, this was a non-event for our readership."

**— Randy Miller, city editor of the Burlington, Iowa, daily newspaper *The Hawks Eye*, on the paper's decision to run a same-sex union announcement, to the Associated Press, Aug. 28.**

"I'd be brilliant as (James) Bond and I'd love to take over from Pierce Brosnan. But name me one gay man who has played the lead in a U.S. blockbuster. The fact is that I'm gay, and that's the only thing that counts for the studio bosses."

**— Rupert Everett to the German magazine *TV Spielfilm*, Aug. 29.**

"All I know is they (the terrorists) blew up my buildings ... then the Europeans are turning on us. These French people: 'Your foreign policy' and 'You really need to look at it' and 'You arrogant Americans.' It's like you know what, you'd be speaking German if it wasn't for us, so shut up and eat your foie gras."

**— Openly gay actor Mario Cantone, who plays the bitchy Anthony Marantino on HBO's "Sex in the City," to Miami's *The Weekly News*, Aug. 22.**

"Ninety percent of Americans don't care what you (gays) do; 10 percent are fanatics. They think you're going to hell, and they want you to go to hell. All right? Ignore them."

**— Bill O'Reilly, of Fox News' "The O'Reilly Factor," to *The Advocate*, Sept. 17.**

"Gays are the best neighbors. They're good-looking and fit. They fix up their houses, and even though they don't need a good school system, they are the first to get involved."

**— Asbury Park, N.J., real-estate broker Jim McGlynn to *The New York Times*, Sept. 6. Gays are flocking to Asbury Park buying up cheap, run-down Victorian homes, the *Times* said.**

"I don't know how many people know about my personal life. I mean it's not something that I've hidden but I don't think about it. ... From the time I started performing I was never hidden about who I am. Even though I didn't talk about it, God knows I played in many gay bars when I started in L.A. and that's where I really developed a lot of my ability. It was probably in the gay bars that I could do the repertoire I wanted to do. Standards and show tunes, those were the places people wanted to hear them."

**— Singer Michael Feinstein to Palm Springs' *The Bottom Line*, Aug. 23.**

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*Quotes compiled by Rex Wockner, who has reported news for the gay press since 1985. His work has appeared in more than 200 gay publications. He has a B.A. in journalism from Drake University, started his career as a radio reporter, and has written extensively for the mainstream media as well.*

# Ask Lam

**by Lam Medallion**

**Dear Lam,**

I am new to this "gay" world and seem so ignorant of so much. I am a 29 year-old woman and have discovered I have a crush on a teacher at the university where I am a student working on a master's degree in anthropology. I find myself mesmerized by every word this woman speaks and have caught myself once or twice staring at her and imagining myself kissing her. What do I do? I want to ask this teacher out so bad, but I'm afraid to. I'll be graduating next semester and, as a graduate assistant, I've found as many ways as possible to make myself of service to her.

**Hankering for Love**

**Dear Hank,**

A crush on your teacher is not uncommon, dear. Right off the bat, a couple of things pop into my head that are cause for alarm. First of all, you are both women. Have you even considered that? The second point to address is this: do you know if this professor is even part of the gay world? You don't mention that, honey, and it would be an incredible waste of time if she were not a gay-world woman.

Having lived a life in show business, I have met many, many gay-world men and women, and have made my own little anthropological study of the mating behaviors of these folks. Without making generalizations that are too broad, the men basically strut around like peacocks, puffed up and fanning their tails, in a distorted sort of mating ritual. Have you ever noticed how they do that? Oh, and mark my words, I am talking literally like a peacock, or an ostrich, or a marabou. I can recall countless times where, upon my return to my dressing room, I have found one or two or more of these gay-world men wrapped up in anything fluffy and flashy – dressing gowns, boas, stoles, hats, jewels, gloves – you name it and they will put it on and prance about, trying to gain the attention of the others. I'm not exactly sure what the winner of the contest gets, but I have my theories.

Gay-world women do not behave in the same way. Gay-world men are dedicated to their attainment of foofery; gay-world women work hard in their elimination of any poof and circumstance. They will strip themselves clean of all finery, anything shiny (except sterling silver; I've noticed they do like sterling silver); any clothing that might accentuate their womanhood; any hair product, hair accessories or hair equipment (including shaving cream, razors or depilatory creams and waxes); all make-up, including and especially mascara; any heel higher than an ordinary work or cowboy boot, and any fragrance that hints of femininity (although some have been known to wear one of two scents: either one of those bisexual, non-gender-specific fragrances (if you can call them that) or patchouli oil.

Now, with the results I've gathered in my observations of gay-world people, you will better understand the next stop in dating this woman. Now I have to confess, it is hard to discern the sexuality of people in academia. Women look like Miss Jane Hathaway, who may or may not have been a sister of Sappho, and the men can be very, very dandy and, for some reason, like to appear fussy and prissy and are easily mistaken for, what I simply refer to as, queens. Do you hear what I am telling you, darling?

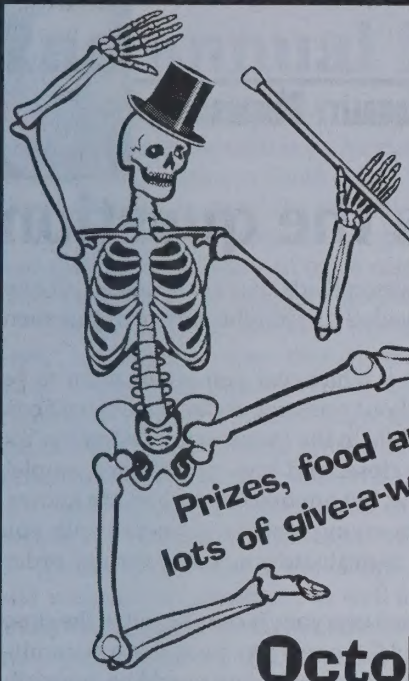
In the case study of academic professionals, you must scrutinize the frequency in visits to the hair salon to discover their sexual orientation. You see, if the dandy was actually a gay-world man, his visits to the hair stylist will increase, as never to be unkempt. If he is just a dandy, the hair may become straggly at the nape of the neck and it is possible, though unlikely, that facial hair, if any, might become slightly unruly. And the case study proves to be the same in gay-world women. A gay-world woman in academia will also trim her hair more frequently than the non-gay, female professor, which I thought to be rather interesting, don't you? This, however, does not include facial or body hair. A non-gay female professor is 30 times more likely to remove what I call the moustache and sideburns – that soft peach fuzz-like hair that may grow above the upper lip or under the cheekbone. Unless, of course, she is Italian and then it is anybody's guess.

So, my dear, the first thing you have to do is study the rate in which hair removal, if any, occurs, as well as the frequency in haircuts, to determine the probability if this professor is, in fact, a gay-world woman. After that, if she is a gay-world woman, you must begin the mating ritual. Dress for success: wear a men's guinea T and let your hair grow. Next, remove any jewelry, except for sterling. If you don't have any sterling, get some. Put on some patchouli and let the gay world games begin! Do you hear what I'm telling you, darling?

*Got a question for Lam? Write to Lam Medallion c/o* Family & Friends, *P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948 or, if you wish, email your question to FamilyMag@aol.com and use "Ask Lam" in the subject line. Lam's column is meant for entertainment purposes only.*

**Do You Have A Question For Lam Medallion?**

**If so, send it to Family & Friends P.O. Box 771948 Memphis, TN 38177-1948 or email to FamilyMag@aol.com**

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# REFLECTION

By Jody Renaldo, Executive Director, Equality Mississippi

# To be or not to be - OUT - that is the question

In an article entitled "What It Means To Be A Homosexual," published by *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan 17, 1971, Merle Miller quoted a gay friend as saying, "Straight people don't want to know (if someone is gay) for sure, and they can never forgive you for telling them. They prefer to think it doesn't exist, but if it does, at least keep quiet about it."

Quite an interesting choice of words by Mr. Miller's friend. It explains how far equality for gays and lesbians has come in other parts of the country that aren't Southern. Let someone say the same thing in New York today, and they would be laughed right out of their latest shiny, aluminum-foil club shirt.

Thirty-one years later, while the rest of the country seems to have evolved from the notion implied in Mr. Miller's friend's words, the South hasn't moved hardly an inch. I am referring specifically to the "at least keep quiet about it" part.

It seems there is a lot of that same mentality around the South and it's really disheartening to those of us who are busting our asses in the effort to bring equality to our southward corner of the nation. Even more disheartening is that the mentality is like a virus within our own gay and lesbian community. Yeah, we expect the "just keep quiet about it" mantra from the straight people, but from other gay and lesbian people, in 2002?

There are moments in a person's life when I can accept and fully understand he or she not wanting to be out of the closet. However, if you can't even be out of the closet to your own gay and lesbian community, then you need your Gay.com membership revoked and your personal ads that are splashed all over the Internet should be invaded by straight-porn advertisement banners!

Ladies and gentlemen – whichever you are or want to be, now or in the future – without pride for yourself, you can't contribute anything worthwhile to the movement of equality. You might as well stay in the closet and stay out of other people's way. Sounds harsh, I know, but anyone that knows me knows I tell it like it is. If what I'm saying is striking a nerve with you, then maybe you need to re-evaluate yourself, your gay or lesbian senses.

In this day and time when everyone is coming out of the closet because being gay is "cool," the real gay people are slamming their closet doors shut. Slamming them shut would be, normally, a good thing, except the real gay people are forgetting to be on the outside of the closet when they slam the door shut.

Maybe we long for acceptance so much that we choose to be liked instead of choosing to be equal. In the South, if we're out, it's a safe bet no one – save for other gay or lesbian people, and even then it's not a sure thing – will like us, will want to associate with us, will vote us "best dressed" at the latest state or national Republican Convention.

Having considered all of that which I have said and you're still not moved to slap a rainbow on your Yugo, then ask yourself this question: How's your health?

I would never consider a person healthy unless he or she had overcome his or her prejudice against homosexuality. Is it possible to be homosexual and still be prejudiced (against) homosexuality?

To answer that, you must answer this: are you out?

*Jody Renaldo is the executive director of Equality Mississippi, Mississippi's statewide gay and lesbian civil rights organization. He may be reached at jody@equalityms.org.*

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# 2nd annual Mississippi LGBT summit set

The 2nd annual Mississippi Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Summit is set for the weekend of Oct. 11 to 13, at Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Miss. The public is invited and there is no cost to attend the summit.

The summit is held annually to bring LGBT Mississippians and their allies together to solve common problems and promote progress in the struggle for equal rights within the state.

"The summits are unique in that they have a two-fold mission," Jody Renaldo, executive director of Equality Mississippi said. "One mission is to provide a way for the Mississippi LGBT community, each individual, to get involved and have a say in the LGBT equality process rather than leaving it up to organizations alone. The second mission is to provide a time when we can come together to celebrate and enjoy fellowship with other people who are like us and with other people who accept us."

The summit consists of workshops and presentations by state and national organizations, as well as roundtable discussions and social activities throughout the weekend. Some of the workshop presentations will be presented by Lambda Legal, Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation, Rev. Tommie Watkins Ministries, ACLU of Mississippi, Equality Mississippi, *Family & Friends Magazine* and Sonny Ward.

The summit is sponsored by Equality Mississippi, Camp Sister Spirit; the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association (GLBA) of Ole Miss; Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends (GLBF) of Mississippi State University, and the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) of the University of Southern Mississippi.

For more information about the 2002 Mississippi Statewide LGBT Summit, and directions to Camp Sister Spirit, call (601) 936-7673 or go online to www.equalityms.org/2002summit.html.

Reservations for camping spaces and cabins, for $10 to $20 a night, sliding scale, can be made by calling Camp Sister Spirit at (601) 344-1411.

## Casablanca

from page 44

"P.J. has some great ideas and I know that Casablanca will continue to be a success with her at the helm," he said.

Newton said she thinks Casablanca has filled a void needed in Memphis.

"I believe, since we've opened, that I've just started to touch on something that has longevity," she said. "I have to brag on the clientele because we get the A-list crowd in here, and, we've got a dress code."

"We please most everyone who walks through the doors of Casablanca. I haven't had a dissatisfied customer yet," Newton concluded.

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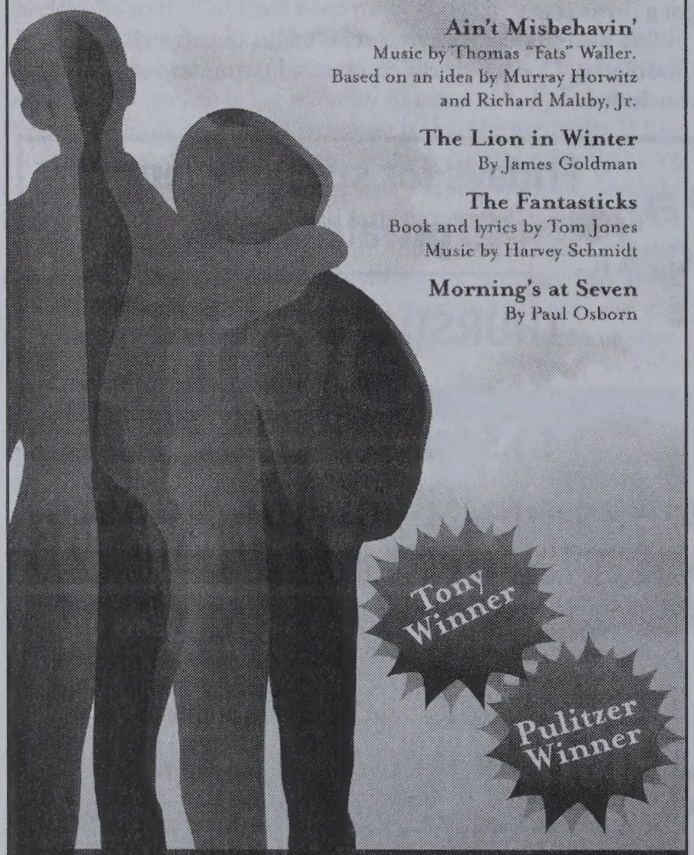


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# *Fannie Flagg talks*

Actress, author and all-around funny woman Fannie Flagg was in Memphis this past month to promote her latest book, *Standing In The Rainbow*. She is pictured above at the Main Branch of the Memphis & Shelby County Public Library during a taping of the library radio station's "Book Talk."


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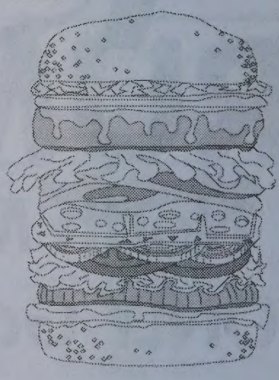

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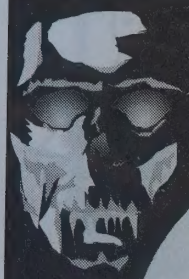
7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday



# LORENZ

1528 MADISON
901-274-8272

# Halloween GLOW BASH

## BLACK LIGHT - GLOW LIGHT DANCE PARTY

## Saturday, October 26th

## LET US LIGHT UP YOUR NIGHT

* Don't Forget This Weekend To Set Your Clocks Back an Hour. To Remind You, We'll Bring Happy Hour to Late Night 9:30 p.m. Till Midnight • Saturday, October 26 only!

$1.75 DOMESTIC BEER ONLY

**At Midnight, Join Us For Our**

**BEST BARE CHEST CONTEST**

Show Off Your Glistening Pecs For Prizes & Gifts in 4 Categories

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

**Thursday**
**October 31st**

the Party at Lorenz starts at 5:30 p.m.

**Watch for the upcoming GRAND RE-OPENING of**

LORENZ' After Shock

1530 MADISON (901) 276-6002

# Memphis

## Bar & Restaurant Guide

### BARS & CLUBS

1. **Backstreet Memphis**
2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522

2. **Crossroads**
1278 Jefferson
(901) 276-8078

3. **Crossroads 2**
111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-8078

4. **J-Wags**
1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909

5. **The Jungle**
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313

6. **Lorenz/Aftershock**
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272

7. **Madison Flame**
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-9839

8. **Metro Memphis**
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010

9. **N-Cognito**
338 S. Front @ Vance
(901) 523-0599

10. **One More**
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE

11. **The Pumping Station**
1382 Poplar Avenue
(901) 272-7600

12. **Casablanca**
2865 Walnut Grove Road
(901) 323-6386

13. **Watkins Park**
394 Watkins
(901) 276-5001

### RESTAURANTS

**Twain's** (Inside Sam's Town Tunica)
(800) 456-0711
(Reservations suggested)

1. **Bogie's Delicatessen**
2098 LaSalle Place (behind Paulette's)
(901) 272-0022

2. **Cafe Ole**
2127 Young Avenue
(901) 274-1504

3. **Cafe Society**
212 North Evergreen
(901) 722-2177
(Reservations suggested)

4. **lilly's dimsum thensome**
903 South Cooper
(901) 276-9300

5. **Melange**
948 South Cooper
(901) 276-0002

6. **Molly's La Casita Mexican Restaurant**
2006 Madison Avenue
(901) 726-1873

7. **Buns on the Run**
2150 Elzey Avenue
(901) 278-BUNS

**RP Tracks**
3547 Walker Street
(901) 327-1471

### MEMPHIS THEATERS

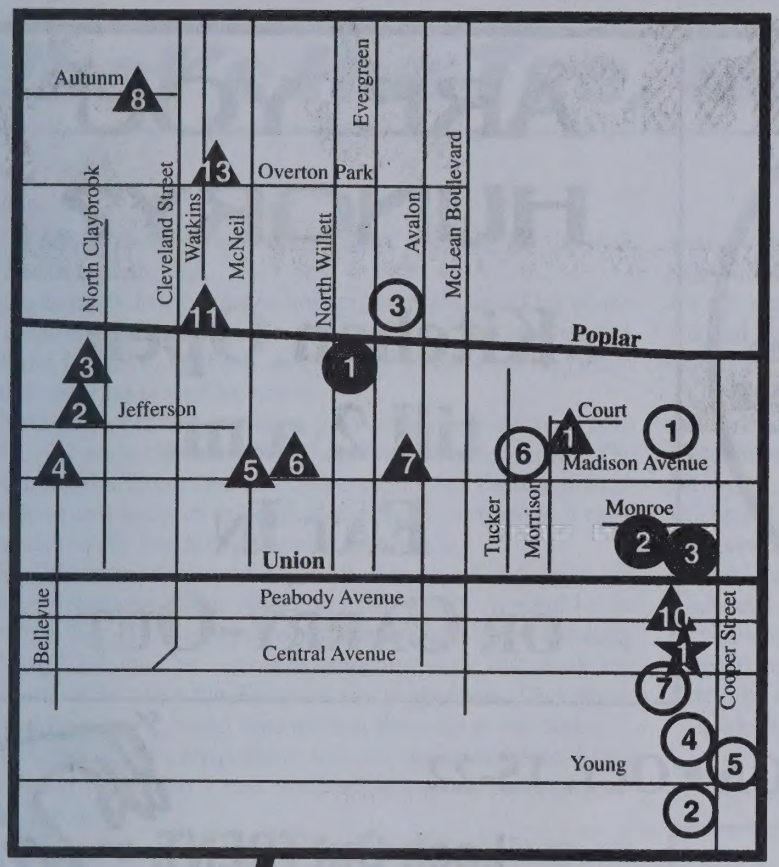
1. **Circuit Playhouse**
1705 Poplar Avenue

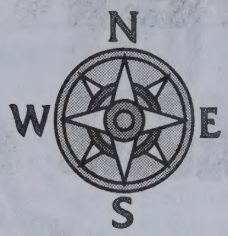
2. **Emerald Theatre Company**
2085 Monroe Avenue

3. **Playhouse on the Square**
51 South Cooper

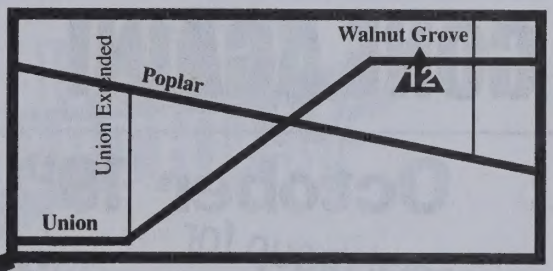
### GLBT RETAILERS

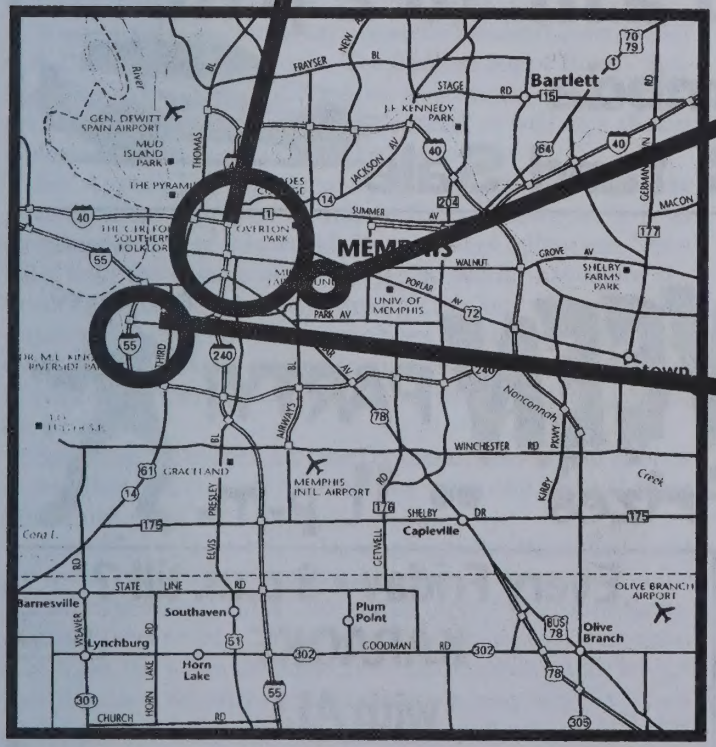
1. **INZ & OUTZ CARDS & GIFTS**
**553 South Cooper • (901) 728-6535**

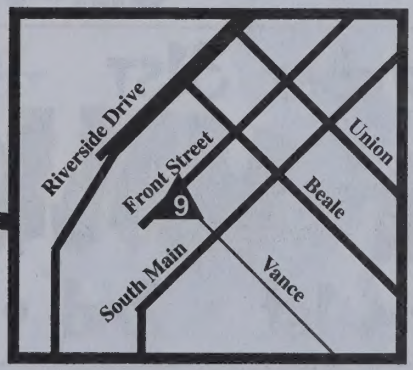


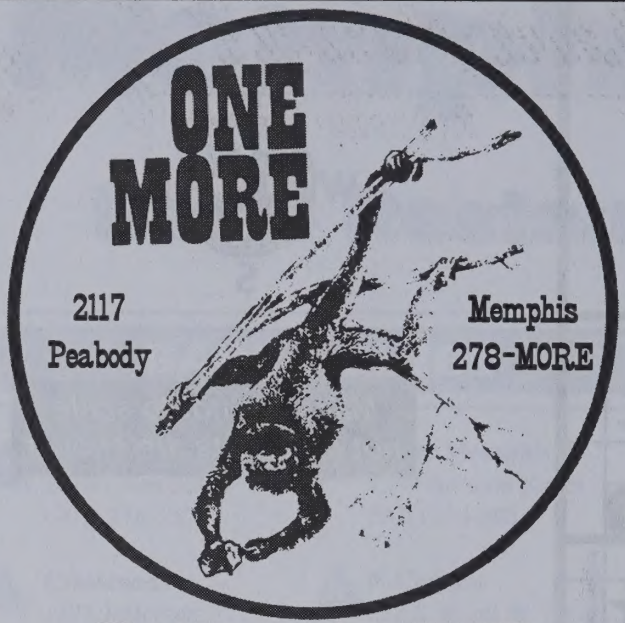




*Maps are not to scale; not all streets are shown.*






The "Monkey" Is BACK!

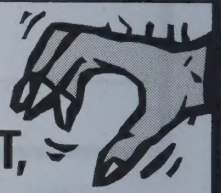
# ARE YOU HUNGRY?

**Kitchen Open till 2 a.m.**

**EAT IN OR CARRY-OUT**

# TOM'S GONE AGAIN!

SAN DIEGO, CA • OCT. 15-22



Look Out TRENT, Bartenders Gonna Play!

## October 19th • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

a social group for the GLBT community

**2x Lambda Car Wash & Yard Sale**

## October 31st

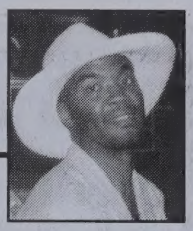
# HALLOWEEN PARTY!

**1st • 2nd • 3rd Prizes •• 11 p.m.**

**CAROL PLUNK**
**Sunday & Wednesday**
**Call for times!**

**Every Friday • 8 p.m. till ?**
**KARAOKE**
**with ALI**

# What's the Tee, Ladybug?



**By Anthony Hardaway**

Chil-ren, September was one heck of a month for the doll, Mid-South and abroad.

Atlanta Black Pride was the hot spot for the Labor Day weekend. I was only able to attend one day and that was all I needed. Hot-lanta is cute to visit but, as Dorothy realized in the *Wizard of Oz*, there is no place like home.

The family of the Kourvoisier gave a dynamic show to benefit the city-wide chapter of Brothers United of Memphis. The chapter thanks Tiona and the entire family for their unconditional love and support in helping to educate, inform and raise awareness to the black community as a whole.

Now, an individual would have had to be a fool to miss the Southern Heritage Classic Weekend in Memphis. Around 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, the city street of Claybrook started shaking. My "Judy" stopped by my office with four sexy, fine, male entertainers named Trouble, Devious, Sex Appeal and Dicksman. The building, nor I, could take all that fineness at one time.

Thursday night's strip show was off da hook, chile! I saw people that night that I had not seen since before the Apartment Club days.

Friday night's reception for Rundu and Keith Barbee was nicely attended with cameo appearances from Sex Appeal and the Dicksman. At the club, Rundu and Keith sold their work to a very eager crowd who was awaiting our arrival. Keith turned the club out when he read one of his poems from his book, *The Hot Life*. Baby, I must say, the book is so hot, my sister and her husband bought a copy of it.

It was good to see our great supporter Jamaica Carter of BET "Oh Drama" on Friday night. The dancers out of Texas – College Boy, Freak-Nasty, Slicky-Slim and Menage-a-trois did a good job entertaining us Classic Weekend, as well. It is always a pleasure to see them all on stage at one time.

Sex Appeal, The Dicksman and the legendary Bobby Blake gave Brothers United of Tennessee Founder Dwayne Jenkins an interview out of this world. Dwayne kept telling me, "First lady, hold the camera still," but if you would have seen the beauty of our black brothers through the lens of that camera the way I saw it, you would have been shaking like a leaf on a tree, as well. Look for the interview in the *Source* magazine out of Nashville, Tenn., in October, or call (800) 845-4266, ext. 269 for a copy.

Speaking of October, Earl the Dicksman has a layout in *Black Inches*. Buy it and write or email the magazine and tell them how much you like Earl's layout.

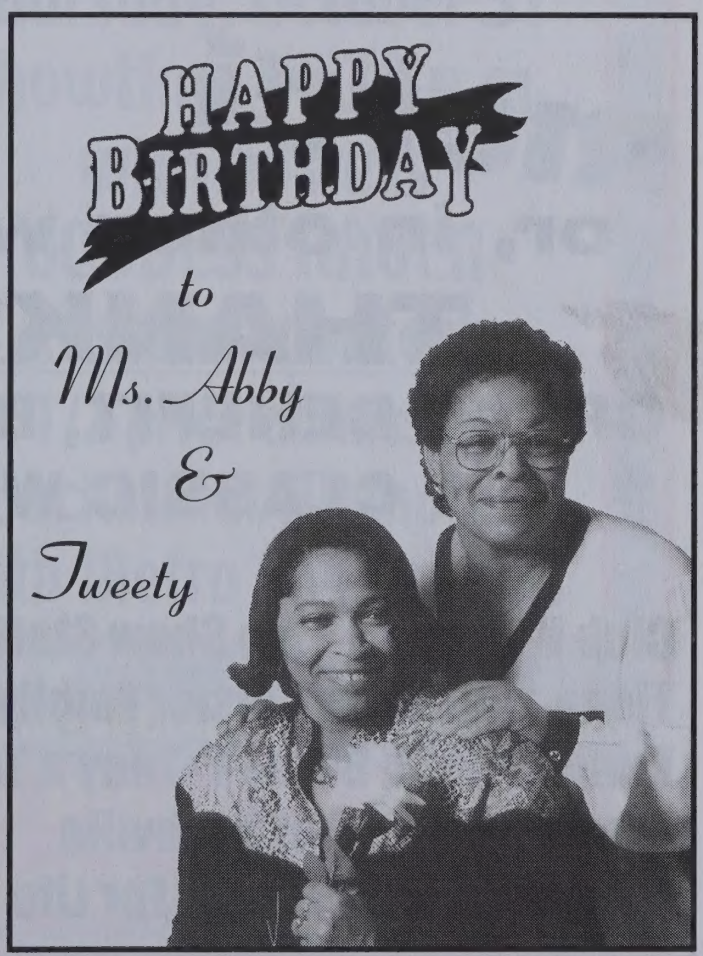
And when will my babies learn in Memphis that if you don't get to the club early on big event weekends, you will be in the "Lawd have mercy, chile, look at that LINE!" The show Saturday night was no joke. All the female impersonators were good that night, but when the boys came out to perform, the chil-ren took the stage. Security had to stand on stage to keep the crowd under control. Baby, what a night. The club was so crowded that my little corner over at the end of the bar was taken over, as well. Thank God my child Keith had sold out of all his books for the night. F.Y.I. "Butch, I owe you a fold-out table. I believe the chil-ren either danced on top of it or took it and Keith Barbee out to breakfast when the club closed." Chile, what a weekend!

There are no words to describe how much I enjoyed myself at the Fire And Ink: A Writers Festival for GLBT People of African Descent in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 19 to 22. The committee – Lisa C. Moore, G. Winston James, C. C. Carter, Reginald Harris, Sharon Bridgforth and many others – did an outstanding job with the conference. Never have I been so happy to be in the same place with so many beautiful black gay artists and writers.

Adodi Muse performers Duncan, Malik and Anthony took us there and back. A Real Read Sanford E. Gaylord and Byron Stewart helped us to reflect back on the life of the late Larry Duckette and Essex Hemphill.

I was in awe to meet such great black gay writers as Samuel

**See What's the Tee, page 56**



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Just call us (901) 682-2669 or email us FamilyMag@aol.com

## What's the Tee

from page 55

R. Delany, Marvin K. White, Thomas Glave, Robert Reid-Pharr, Charles Nero, Bruce Marrow, James Earl Hardy and many, many others.

Cast members, producers and writers of *Kevin's Room* were in attendance, as well. I met Lora Branch and Janice Layne for the very first time. Word has it that they are getting ready to make the sequel to the first video for *Kevin's Room* real soon.

Some of the black SGL female artists in attendance were Deardria Nesbitt, Rev. Dr. Shirlene Holmes, Samiya A. Bashir, Dorothy Randall Gray, Abigail A. Sewell and many others.

P=Peace, R=Regal, I=Individual, D=Distinction and E=Excellence.

Now you break the word up and discover what each letter means to YOU. And as always, happy Pride chil-ren, happy Pride!

Have Family & Friends Delivered To Your Door
See Page 4

merci DANKE

**or, in other words**

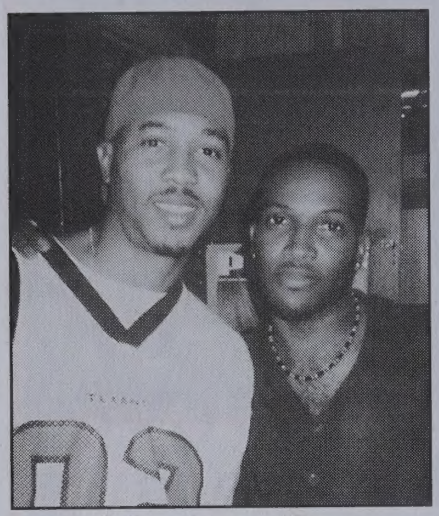
# THANKS for a GREAT BENEFIT, BOOKSIGNING & CLASSIC WEEKEND

**Club N-Cognito • the Show Staff**
**Tiona & the Kourivoisier Family**
**Rundu • Keith Barbee •Tony & Terryl**
**Brothers United of Nashville**
**Special Thanks to Friends For Life**

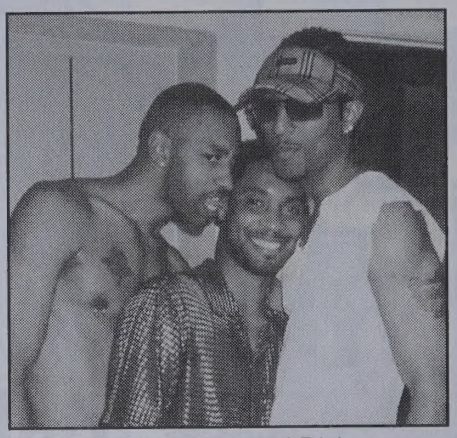
METRO
1349 Autumn Street
901.274.8010
MEMPHIS
Halloween
Extravaganza
Thursday, October 31
Showtime 11:30 p.m.
with hostess
GODDESS RAVEN
costume contest
get 1/2 price admission to
Backstreet Memphis
with Metro hand stamp
Join Us Every Sunday
for our T-Dance
with DJ Wolfy
starting at 6 p.m.
$4 Beer Bust & Buffet • $1 well drinks
Open 7 days a week
Karaoke Every Monday & Tuesday Night
Memphis's Favorite Place to PARTY!
Come Have a Cocktail With Us

# FAMILY ALBUM

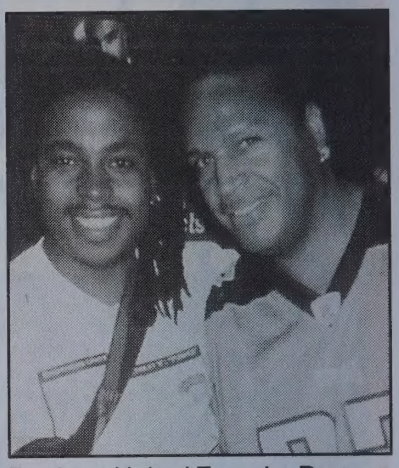
## Southern Heritage Classic Weekend



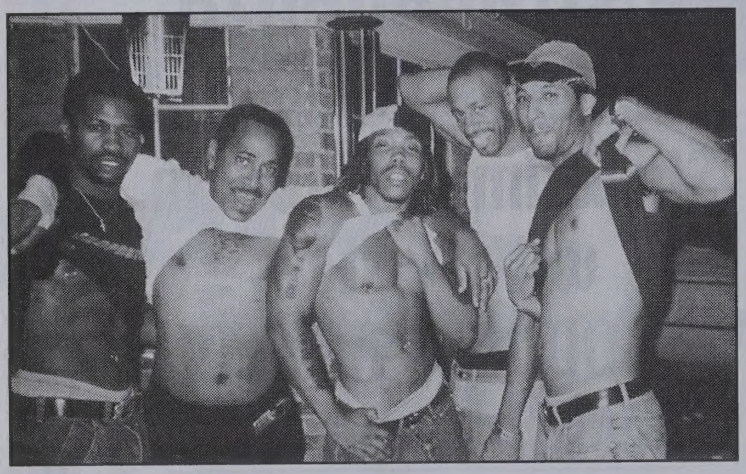
College boy and Tony

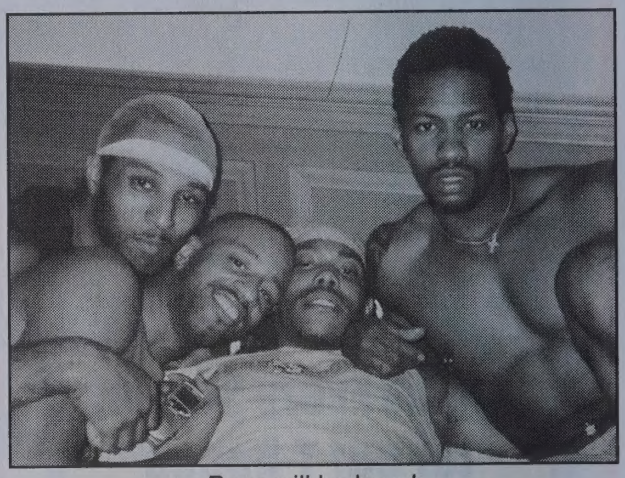


Sex Appeal, Marl and Dicksman

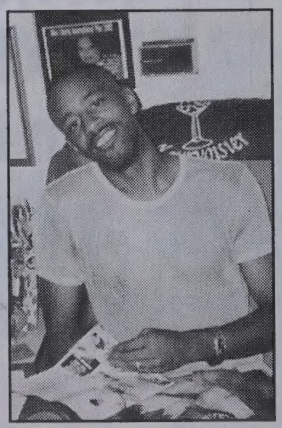


Brothers United Founder Dwayne and Supporter Jamaica Carter





Boys will be boys!

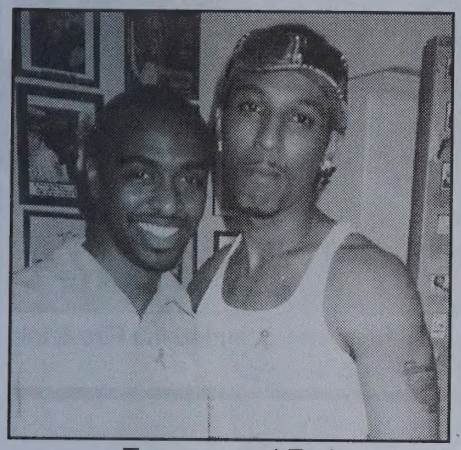


Sex Appeal of New Jersey

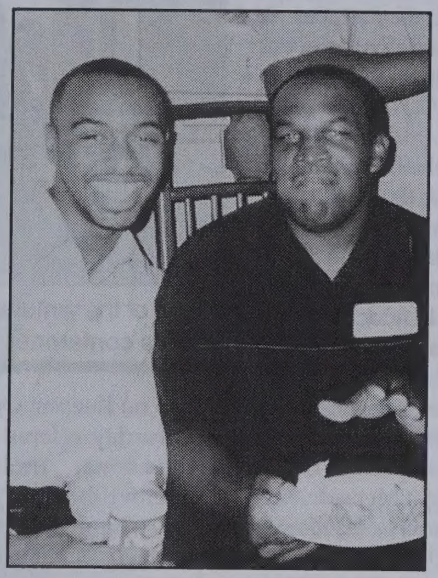
Writer Keith Barbee and members of The House of Conflict.

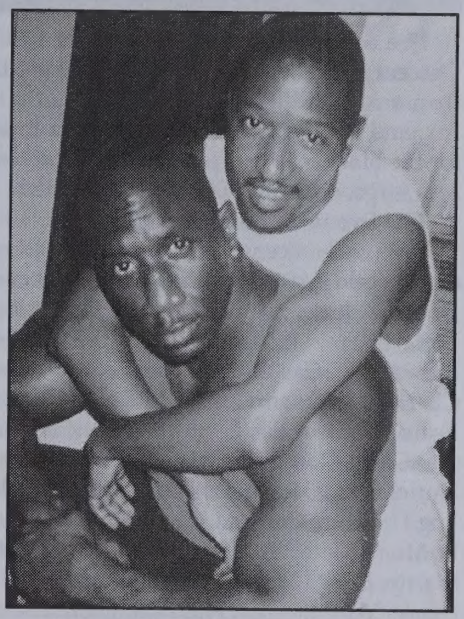
# FAMILY ALBUM

## Southern Heritage Classic Weekend



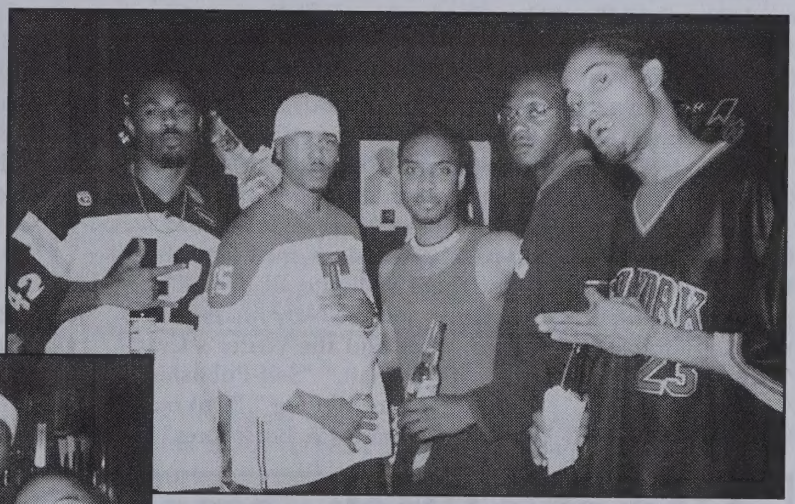
Terrance and Earl

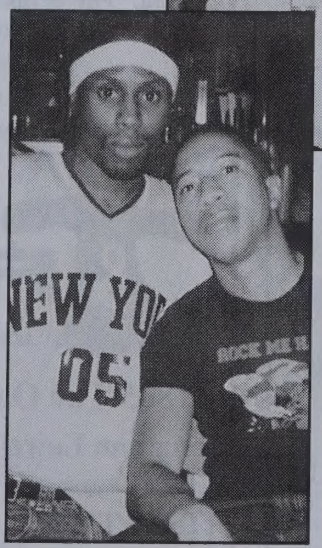




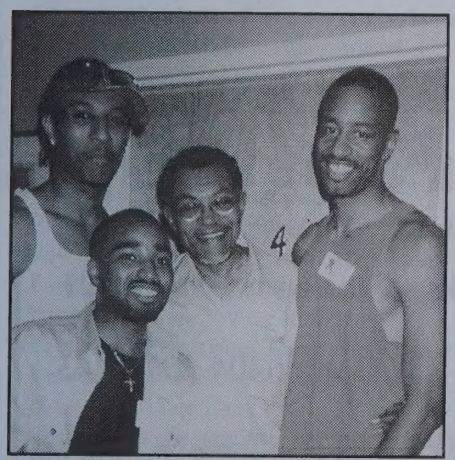
Stan and film star Bobby Blake

Tommy Ross and Trouble





Brothas hangin' out.



Dicksman, Keith, Andrew and Sex Appeal

Dicksman, Lady Bug, Sex Appeal and Tony

# Fire & Ink writer's conference is a success

BY ANITA MOYT, MANAGING EDITOR

Fire & Ink: A Writer's Festival for GLBT People of African Descent, held Sept. 20 to 22 in Chicago, Ill., was nothing less than a resounding success. This was the first year for Fire & Ink, and hopefully the beginning of a much-anticipated event for the black SGL writer and artist, both established and aspiring. Approximately 200 people attended.

**The Event**

The conference was a virtual who's who of the black SGL literary world, featuring writers, performers and artists, including Donna Allegra, Samiya Bashir, Pamela Booker, Keith Boykin, Djola Branner, Sharon Bridgforth, Sidney Brinkley, Laurinda Brown, C. C. Carter, Staceyann Chin, Darice Clark, Cheryl Clark, Charlene Cothran, Samuel R. Delany, R. Erica Doyle, Alexis de Veaux, Godfrey Easter, Steven Fullwood, Sanford Gaylord, Thomas Glave, Dorothy Gray, Anthony Hardaway, James Earl Hardy, Duriel Harris, Reginald Harris, Rev. Dr. Shirlene Holmes, Sterling Houston, Gale Patricia Jackson, G. Winston James, Antonio Le Mons, Madeleine Lim, Lynnell Long, Earthlyn Manuel, Dawn Martin, Renita Martin, Rev. Irene Monroe, Dwight McBride, Anthony "Antoine" McWilliams, Akilah Monifa, Lisa C. Moore, Bruce Morrow, David Neale, Charles Nero, Deardria Nesbitt, Michelee Parkerson, Derrick Pete, Matais Pouncil, Retha Powers, Robert Reid-Pharr, Gina Rhodes, Mattie Richardson, Shawn Ruff, Abigail Sewell, Reginald Shepherd, Pamela Sneed, Byron Stewart, Cheryl Taylor, Duncan Teague, Gregory Victorianee, Marvin K. White, Robin White, Karen Williams, Malik Williams, Ronaldo Wilson and Thomas H. Wirth.

The About Face Youth Theater, A Real Read and ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble opened the weekend events with performances.

Friday morning began with several readings. The day was filled with workshops and panel discussions, including "In the Life, In the Academy," "Out There a Minute: Black GLBT Experimental Writers," "Magazines and the New Media," "Editors Roundtable," "Tongues, Tales and the Writer's Craft," "Writing for Performance," "F**k That!," "Self-Publishing," "The Spoken Word," "The Business of Writing," "Out on the Shelves: Black GLBT Writing in Libraries & Bookstores" and "Keep on Keepin' On!"

Some of the writers and others who attended the Fire & Ink writer's conference in Chicago.

Saturday offered yet another selection of workshops and discussions, including "Write Your Heart Out!," "Screenwriting," "Poetry," "Hors D'Oeuvres and Appetizers: Literary Jump Starters," "Political Writing," "Fiction," "The Art of Poetry," "Biography & Memoir," "Humor and Comedy Writing," "Staging Black Pride: Refocusing for the Future," "Another Country: The Black Queer Diaspora" and "History of Black GLBT Literature."

Sunday began with an interfaith service and was followed by two panels: "Marketing and Promotion for Self-Published Authors" and "Spirituality." These were followed by a viewing and follow-up discussion of the film *Kevin's Room*. The event concluded with a facilitated group discussion of "Where Do We Go From Here?"

**The Impressions**

"As one of the founding organizers, along with Lisa C. Moore of Redbone Press," poet G. Winston James told *Family & Friends* via email, "Fire & Ink more than met my expectations. We had hoped to create a space where black LGBT writers could get to-

See Fire & Ink, page 61

Memphis Black Same Gender Loving Alliance
In Memphis
(901) 274-0163
Creating a village/haven for & about us.

J&T Framing
1805 The Oaks • Clarkston, Ga. 30021
Jonathan Lowell
Owner
Home: 404-297-8243
Terry Thomas
Co-Owner
Email: JTFrame@Bellsouth.net

# Meet Your Neighbor

## Tiona Kourvoisier

**Name?** Tiona Kourvoisier
**Birthplace?** Phoenix Ariz.
**How long have you lived in Memphis?** 8 years
**Relationship status?** married to Armani Kourvoisier
**Sexual orientation?** same-gender-loving
**Occupation?** medical receptionist
**Hobbies?** movies, music
**Favorite Food?** potatoes
**Favorite Color?** red
**Favorite Animal?** dog
**Favorite Singer?** Janet Jackson
**Favorite Movie?** *Imitation of Life* with Lana Turner
**Favorite Song?** "Anytime, Anyplace"
**Favorite Restaurant?** Applebees
**Favorite Drink?** Wine cooler
**Favorite thing about Memphis?** Beale Street
**Least favorite thing about Memphis?** The fact that they closed Tom Lee Park
**Finish this phrase: My friends think I am ...**
"very outgoing."

# WKNO special looks at WLOK anniversary

WKNO-TV Channel 10 looks at the history and impact of Memphis's radio station AM 1340-WLOK in a new documentary, "The WLOK Story," which airs Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. and again on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 9 p.m.

AM 1340-WLOK is well-known for its excellence in Gospel music programming, but its history of community involvement and acclaimed on-air personalities goes back to the late 1950s, when the station first established a full format of R&B programming. Just as WDIA made history in 1948, by becoming the first radio station to provide all-black programming to the Mid-South audience, WLOK made history when Gilliam Communications Inc., an AfricanAmerican owned company, bought the station in 1977. Until that time, neither of Memphis's two African-American oriented stations had been owned by someone who was representative of the targeted audience.

Narrated by Gregory Michael Siggers, a former deejay for WLOK, this special features interviews with Dr. Benjamin Hooks, former national director of the NAACP; Al Bell, former owner of Stax Records, and Congressman Harold Ford Jr.

• • •

WKNO-TV Channel 10 will air the PBS series "The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow," on Tuesdays at 9 p.m., Oct. 1 through 22.

This four-part series explores life from the end of the Civil War to the start of the modern Civil Rights movement in the 1950s, an era characterized by white supremacist laws and customs known as "Jim Crow."

The program depicts how African-Americans bravely fought against the status quo, acquiring opportunities in education, business and land ownership and a true spirit of community.

## Fire & Ink

from page 60

gether to discuss our writing, to network and to build on our skills. Fire & Ink ended up being that, as well as a place where many writers found a sense of common purpose around their writing and a sense of the spirituality that accompanies our community and our work. Many people were visibly moved and inspired..."

"I learned the importance of networking," Sanford Gaylord, actor, director and writer, told *Family & Friends* in a phone call from his home in Chicago, "and how precious it is for us to get together so we can learn from each other and be sure our experiences are documented for those that follow us."

*Family & Friends* columnist Anthony Hardaway, a panelist on "Out on the Shelves ...," agreed that networking was one of the major pluses for this event, scheduled to be held bi-annually.

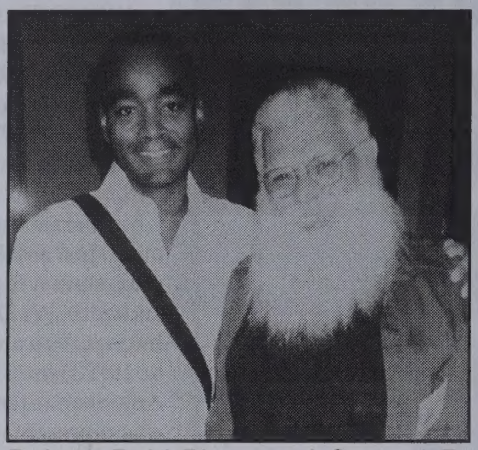
"It was an outstanding networking experience," Hardaway said. "It was a true hands-own experience to converse with so many writers.

"Please don't stop," Hardaway said, expressing his appreciation to the organizers of this well-received event. "And continue to bring all of us together."

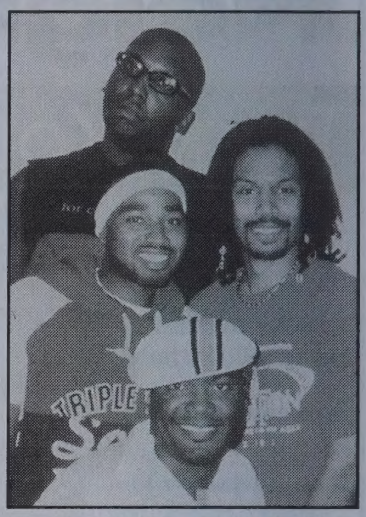
# FAMILY ALBUM

## Fire & Ink Writers Conference – Chicago, Ill.

*Kevin's Room* Lora Branch and Janice Layne with Lady Bug, center.



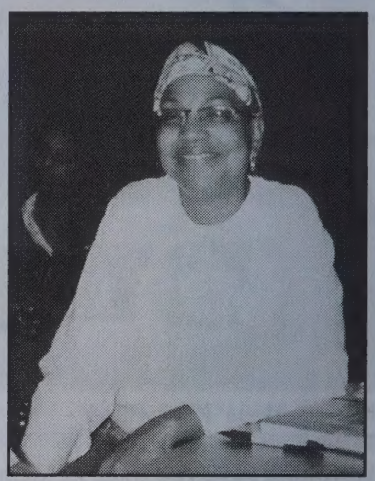
Robert Reid-Pharr and Samuel R. Delany



Marvin K. White, Keith Barbee, Malik Williams and Anthony

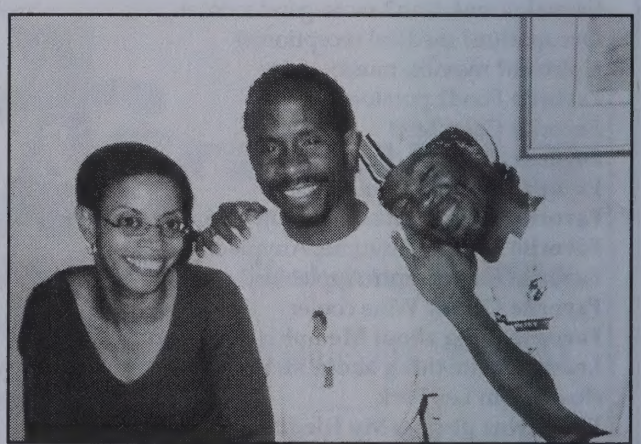
Byron S. Stewart and Rev. Dr. Shirlene Holmes

Byron, Rhonda and Sanford, all of *Kevin's Room.*



Comedian Karen Williams

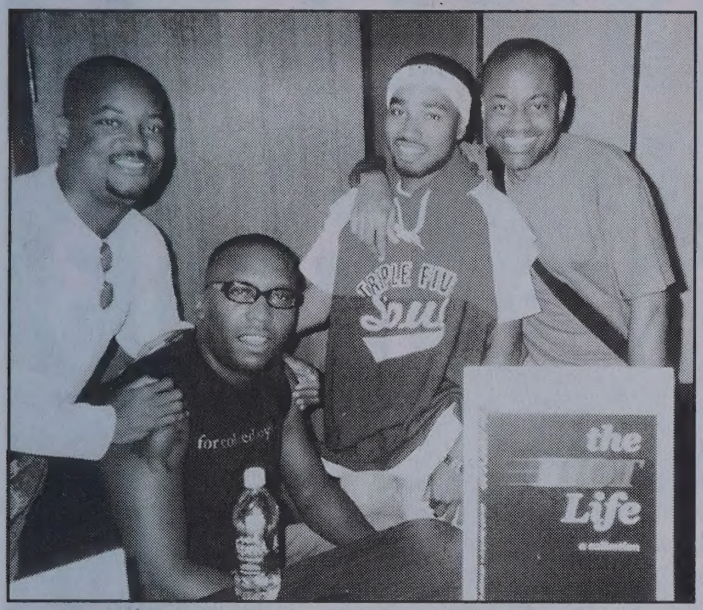
Keith Boykin, Keith Barbee, Brent and Duncan



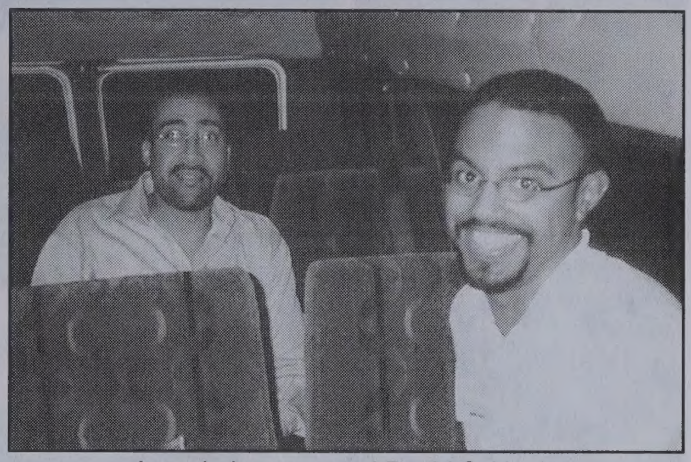
Lisa C. Moore, G. Winston James and the First Lady himself!

# FAMILY ALBUM

## Fire & Ink Writers Festival – Chicago, Ill.



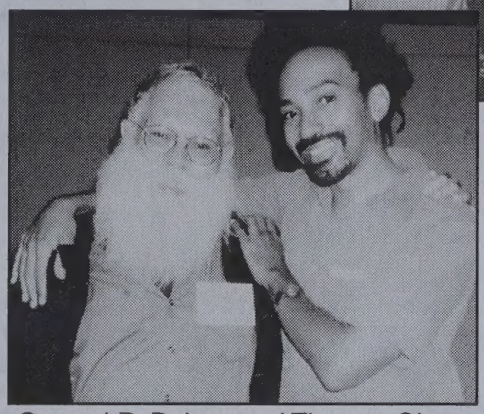

Rodney McCoy, Marvin K. White, Keith Barbee and James Earl Hardy



Antonio Lemons and David S. Neale

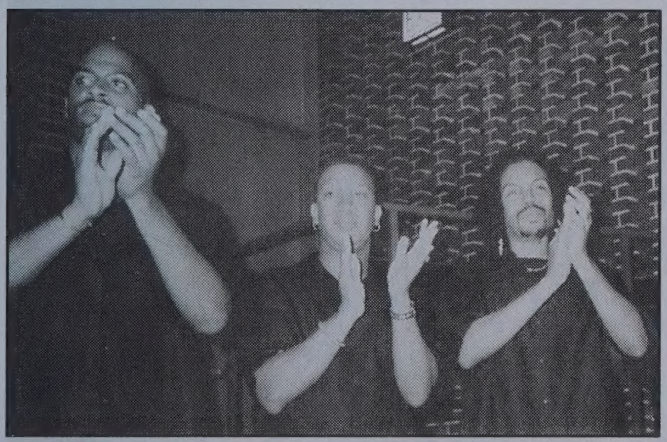
Organizers of Fire & Ink

Sharon Bridgforth and Samiya A. Bashir



Samuel R. Delany and Thomas Glave

Abigail A. Sewell



Adodi Muse of Atlanta, Ga., Anthony, Duncan and Malik

Dorothy Randall Gray

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center presents

# OUTFLIX 2002

# October 10 - 13

**Suggested Donation:**
**$5 per time slot OR $20 for Weekend Pass**

***Seats first come, first served regardless of ticket package.***

**The Mid-South's only Film Festival dedicated to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered communities with special films addressing the needs of our youth community.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thursday, October 10 | Malco Studio on the Square | 7:00 p.m. | *Trembling Before G-D* |
| | | 9:00 p.m. | *Eli Parker is Getting Married?* |
| Friday, October 11 | Malco Studio on the Square | 11:00 a.m. | *Eli Parker is Getting Married?* |
| | | 1:00 p.m. | *Trembling Before G-D* |
| Saturday, October 12 | Malco Studio on the Square | 9:00 a.m. | *M.O. of M.I. (The Modus Operandi of Male Intimacy)* |
| | | Noon | Meet the Directors of The M.O. of M.I. |
| | 1st Congo Theater* | 2:00 p.m. | *Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100* |
| | | 4:00 p.m. | *My Left Breast* |
| | | | *Body: A Woman's Definition* |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | *Youth Out Loud* |
| | | 8:00 p.m. | *Three Minutes Based on the Revolution of the Sun* plus *A Star is Bored* |
| Sunday, October 13 | Malco Studio on the Square | 9:00 a.m. | *Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay* |

* First Congregational Church

mglcc
memphis gay & lesbian community center

*In addition to the films listed above, dozens of shorts and experimental films will be shown.*

*Visit www.outflix.org for the latest information for all events.*

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## "10 COSMIC STEPS TO A GREAT DATE"

1. Check time on your new watch, your date is on the way!
2. Put on your new Jocks & Socks
3. Light a Candle, Cosmic of course
4. Your date is here, hurry ... check yourself in the cool mirror
5. Have a seat on your new Bar, Make a Cocktail
6. Dinner Time, Soups up on the Tri-Star Dining Table
7. Whoa, check the Clock ... it's time to Monkey Around
8. Time to clean up – hop in the shower ... open the Cosmic Shower Curtain for your date, and don't forget the Queen Cream and Bubble Bath.
9. Shower's done, Chess anyone? Maybe later!
10. Have you shown your date your Panoramic Pillow Set? Date over!

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## BARS

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2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522
Fri.–Mon. 8 p.m.–6 a.m.
www.backstreetmemphis.com

**CASABLANCA CABARET & BISTRO**
2865 Walnut Grove Road • (901) 323-6386
5 p.m. to ? Tues.-Thurs./5 p.m. to 3 a.m. Fri.-Sat./3 p.m. to ? Sun.
Closed on Mondays

**CROSSROADS & CROSSROADS 2**
1278 Jefferson & 111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-1882
Noon–3 a.m., 7 Days A Week

**KENNADY'S SUE-SHE BAR**
1464 Bartlett Road
(901) 386-6096
Friday, 10 p.m. until ?

**J-WAG'S**
1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909
Open 24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week

**THE JUNGLE**
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313
4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Fri./3 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat. & Sun.

**LORENZ/AFTERSHOCK**
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272
11 a.m.–3 a.m. Mon.–Sat. • noon–? Sun.

**MADISON FLAME**
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-9839
7 p.m.–3 a.m. Wed., Fri. & Sat./5 p.m.–? Thurs.

**METRO MEMPHIS**
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010
6 p.m.–3 a.m. Tues.–Sun.

**N-COGNITO**
338 South Front @ Vance • (901) 523-0599
10 p.m.–3:30 a.m. Thurs. & Fri.
10 p.m.–5 a.m. Sat./10 p.m.–3:30 a.m. Sun.

**ONE MORE**
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE (6673)
11 a.m.–3 a.m. Mon.–Sat./noon–3 a.m. Sun.

**THE PUMPING STATION**
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(901) 272-7600
2 p.m.–3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

**WATKINS PARK**
394 Watkins at Overton Park Avenue (901) 276-5001
3 p.m. until ? Mon.-Sat.

### JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

**JACK & JILL'S**
3911 Northview Drive
(601) 982-JACK (5225)
9 p.m.–? Fri. & Sat.

**JACK'S CONSTRUCTION SITE**
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(601) 362-3108
5 p.m.–? 7 Days A Week

### TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

**RUMORS**
637 Highway 145
(662) 767-9500
8 p.m. –1 a.m. Thurs. – Sat.

### JACKSON, TENNESSEE

**THE OTHER SIDE**
3883 Highway 45 North
(901) 668-3749
5 p.m.–midnight Sun.–Thurs.
5 p.m.–3 a.m. Fri./7 p.m.–3 a.m. Sat.

## SOCIAL

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**B.G.A.L.A.**
(University of Memphis Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Association)
(901) 678-5719
BGALA is a social, political and eduational organization.
www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

• • •

**COTTON PICKIN' SQUARES–MEMPHIS**
(901) 272-2116
Meets Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 499 Patterson (Near The University of Memphis)
Square dancing social group

# F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

## SOCIAL continued

**MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (MAGY)**
P.O. Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124
(901) 335-6249
Peer support group for 13- to 21-year olds dealing with gay, lesbian, bisexual and gender issues
www.gaymemphis.com/magy

**MEMPHIS BEARS**
1066 Wrenwood, Memphis, TN 38122
(901) 323-4773
Meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Ave., at 10 p.m. • Men Only
Email: info@memphisbears.com
Website: www.memphisbears.com

• • •

**MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER**
P.O. Box 41074, Memphis, TN 38174
(901) 324-GAYS (4297)
www.memphisgayweb.org

• • •

**MEMPHIS PRIDE INC.**
P.O. Box 111265, Memphis, TN 38111-1265
Ph: (901) 327-PRIDE • email: MemphisPride2002@aol.com
Monthly open meetings have been suspended until April 2002, at which time meetings will be held third Monday of each month at Holy Trinity Church, 3430 Summer Ave., at 7 p.m.

• • •

**MIRROR IMAGE**
P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052
A support group for trans individuals meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at 7 p.m.
For more information and locations of meetings, write or email at memphisgroup@usa.com

• • •

**P.F.L.A.G.**
(Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
(901) 754-3136
Support meetings for parents, family and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons
email: amdrake@mem.po.com

• • •

**SUNSHINE TRAVELERS**
(901) 488-4752
Meets every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. at The Jungle, 1474 Madison Ave.

• • •

**TENNESSEE LEATHER TRIBE**
(901) 357-1921
Club nights and meetings vary; contact for info – men and women welcome
www.tnleathertribe.org
email: info@tnleathertribe.org

• • •

**TSARUS MEMPHIS**
P.O. Box 41082, Memphis, TN 38174
(901) 276-4132
Levi-leather club meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Aveune, at 10 p.m. • Men Only
Email: info@tsarus.org
website: www.tsarus.org

### MISSISSIPPI

**GLBA OF OLE MISS**
P.O. Box 3541, University, MS 38677
(662) 915-7049
email: glba@olemiss.edu

• • •

**GLBF**
P.O. Box 233, MS State, MS 39762
(662) 325-8241
email: glbf@org.msstate.edu • www.msstate.edu/org/glbf

### ARKANSAS

**SAFE HARBOR NORTHEAST ARKANSAS**
A confidential support and social group for GLBT individuals, ages 25 and under, in northeast Arkansas.
website: www.safeharbor-nea.netfirms.com

## SPORTS

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. Box 41803, Memphis, TN 38174-1803
(901) 726-4342 • email: memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com
Organizes gay sports leagues, including softball and volleyball

• • •

**BROTHERS & SISTERS BOWLING LEAGUE**
Cordova Bowling Center, 7945 Club Center Cove
(901) 737-7824 OR (901) 465-4371
This co-ed bowling league meets every Sunday at 5:45 p.m. at the Cordova Bowling Center

## WHOLENESS

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**INTO THE LIGHT**
(an open women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting group)
Meets each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue. Email: kilo17@bellsouth.net

• • •

**MEMPHIS REGIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD**
1407 Union Avenue Extended, 3rd Floor (901) 725-1717
HIV & STD testing, gynecological preventive care

# F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

## WHOLENESS continued

•••

**FEAST FOR FRIENDS DINNER**
(901) 272-0855
Dinner is served the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at St. John's United Methodist Church, Bellevue @ Peabody, beginning at 6 p.m.

•••

**MEMPHIS HIV FAMILY CARE NETWORK**
880 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN
(901) 545-8265
Free comprehensive, supportive services and voc/rehab services to the HIV-positive

•••

**ORORO-CROSSROADS**
(901) 743-2900
Support group for African-American, same-gender-loving men
For information, contact James at (901) 529-9549

•••

**THE POSITIVE LIVING CENTER**
1000 South Cooper Street, Memphis, TN
(901) 726-6022 • Tuesday–Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.
Provides opportunities for persons affected by HIV/AIDS to manage the disease in a holistic manner, free of charge.

**WELLNESS CENTER AT HTCC**
3430 Summer Avenue, Memphis, TN 38122
(901) 754-9423 OR (901) 320-9376
Offers a support program for gay parents and a support program for married men dealing with sexual identity.

•••

**YWCA ENCORE**
MedPlex, 880 Madison Avenue (901) 754-4356
Support group for lesbians with breast cancer meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon

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**Find us at gay-friendly stores like Inz & Outz, Memphis 901-728-6535 Outloud Books & Gifts, Nashville 615-340-0034 Outwrite, Atlanta 404-607-0082 and see http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm**
For free listing application, prices, mailing labels, etc., please send self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-FF, Village Stn, NY, NY 10014
Voice: 212-674-0120 Fax: 212-420-1126
Email: gayellowpages@earthlink.
**http://gayellowpages.com**

•••

**SERIOUS SOBER OPEN AA MEETING**
(an open men & women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting)
Meets each Friday at 8 p.m. at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 499 Patterson (near The University of Memphis)
(901) 324-9200

## SPIRITUAL

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**INTEGRITY MEMPHIS**
102 N. Second Street, Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 525-6602
People of all faiths and ideologies are welcome
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church. Dinner at 7 p.m.
www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html

•••

**LAMBDA CIRCLE**
(901) 278-6786
Open to all GLBT persons of faith to join in an affirming time of prayer, Bible study and discussion.
Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper Street.

•••

### OTHER LOCALES

**CAMP SISTER SPIRIT**
P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464
Feminist education/cultural/retreat center
www.campsisterspirit.com
email: sisterspir@aol.com

•••

**MCC OF THE RAINBOW**
5565 Robinson Rd. Ext., Ste. Q, Jackson, MS 39204
(601) 372-6644
Sunday Service at 11:30 p.m.

## POLITICAL

### TENNESSEE

**EQUALITY TENNESSEE**
P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124 • 901-327-2677
A civil rights group that promotes equality and combats prejudice and discrimination among GLBT persons
email: westregion@equalitytn.org
www.equalitytn.org

### MISSISSIPPI

**EQUALITY MISSISSIPPI**
P.O. Box 6021, Jackson, MS 39288-6021
(601) 936-7673
email: EqualityMS@EqualityMS.org
website: EqualityMS.org

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# HOROSCOPES

**Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)** — The possibility of romantic endeavors and/or social popularity increases now. If your focus is in the right place, now may turn out to be a time of fame and fortune.

Looking for a way to better your personal interests? With Mars in your hopes sector, now is the time to get involved in organizations you find interesting.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** — Friends, social affairs and business associates could bring great opportunities in the coming month. Focus is on increased endeavors in your professional life.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)** — With the Sun moving through the top of your chart, you are bound to see things get easier in the work place. Changes should be easier to come by now. Focus on learning new things.

**Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)** — Business traveling could bring you a new romance or social pleasures. New investment possibilities should come your way, while the New Moon brings favorable influences into your life.

**Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20)** — If you combine talents and abilities, you could find yourself making some important changes. Remember, two heads are better than one. Relationships, business and personal, are favored.

**Aries (March 21-April 20)** — The important people in your life will be more supportive of you than ever. Don't underestimate yourself because your methods will be noticed.

**Taurus (April 21-May 21)** — With Energetic Mars moving through your "fun sector" of new romance, now is the time to cash-in on your talents and abilities.

**Gemini (May 22-June 21)** — Focus is on a home-based enterprise, which could mean the difference between profit and loss. Now is the time to attend to domestic matters with new moves and real estate favored.

**Cancer (June 22-July 23)** — Right now, your focus should be on the "social you." If you've been thinking about starting a business in your home, now is the time to act on your idea.

**Leo (July 24-Aug. 23)** — Moving into high gear now is not only favored but suggested as aggressive Mars moves through your income sector. If you make the first move, you could find yourself with recognition and rewards.

**Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)** — With the stars in your favor for the next two months, you should find this a time of accomplishments. Don't sell yourself short, you've got a lot going for you.

*Editor's Note: Horoscopes are meant for entertainment purposes only and are for the month of October 2002.*

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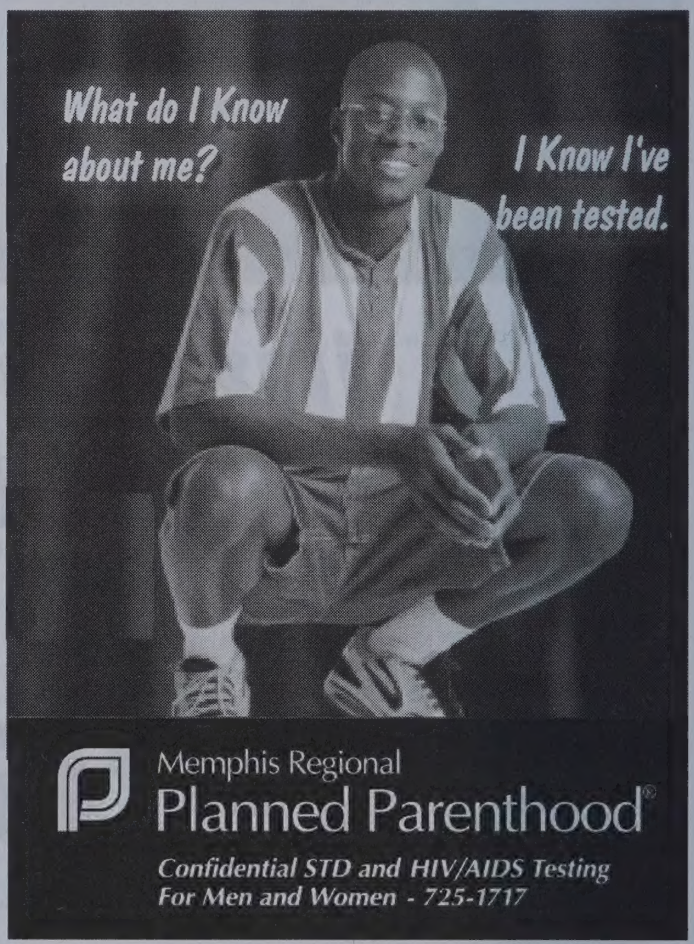


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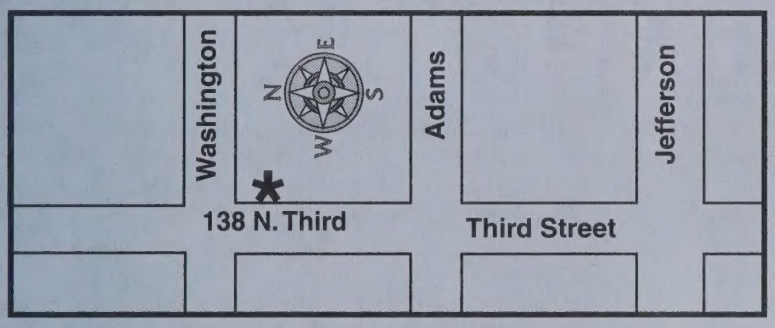
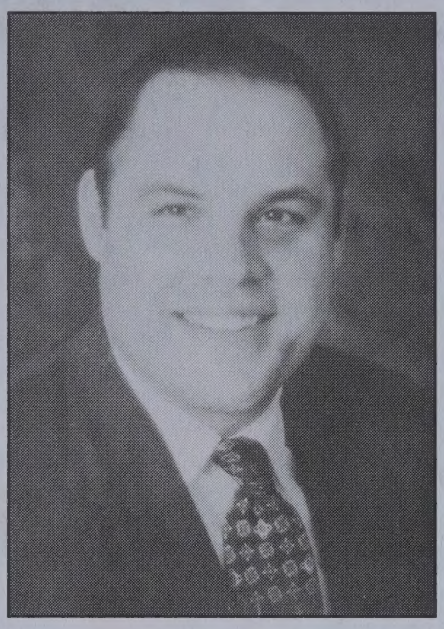
# Joseph S. Ozment

**Attorney at Law**
**138 North Third Street**
**Memphis, Tennessee 38103**



## (901) 525-HELP (4357)

**e-mail – thoz@aol.com**

## Criminal Defense

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FEBRUARY 2003

# FAMILY

& friends

## Meet Memphis's SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN

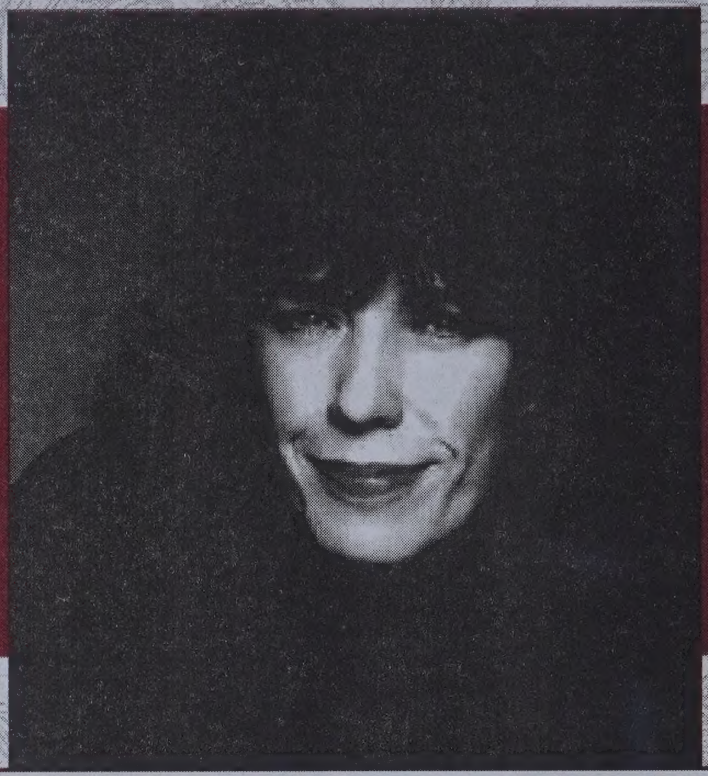
## IT'S BLACK *gay* HISTORY MONTH

THE Orpheum THEATRE

UNION PLANTERS BANK

presents

# An Evening with Lily Tomlin, March 3 at 7 pm



Lily Tomlin will discuss her life and career highlighted by 6 Emmys, a Tony, and a Grammy. After speaking, Ms. Tomlin will answer questions from the audience.

**The 75th Anniversary Speakers Series sponsored by**

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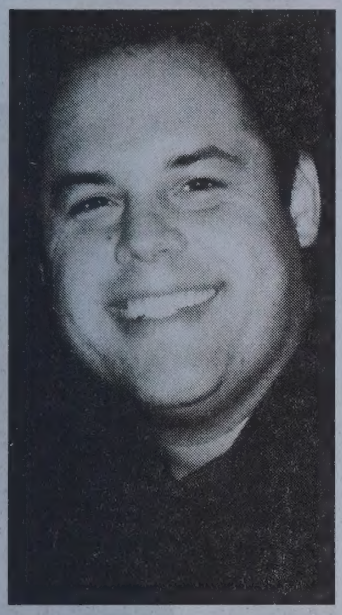
**April 9, 7:30 pm,**
www. chopra.com or 888-4-CHOPRA

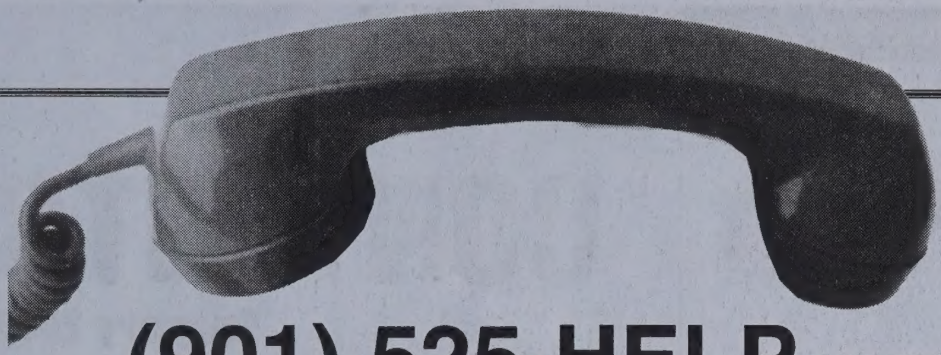
**Gregory Hines**
**May 13, 7pm**

**Purchase Tickets at the Box Office, the Orpheum counter at Davis-Kidd Booksellers, all ticketmaster centers or Charge-By-Phone: 901-525-3000 or 743-ARTS (2787), online at www.orpheum-memphis.com.**

Tickets from $10-$55. Doors open one hour prior to lecture.

[from Shirlene Holmes Papers]





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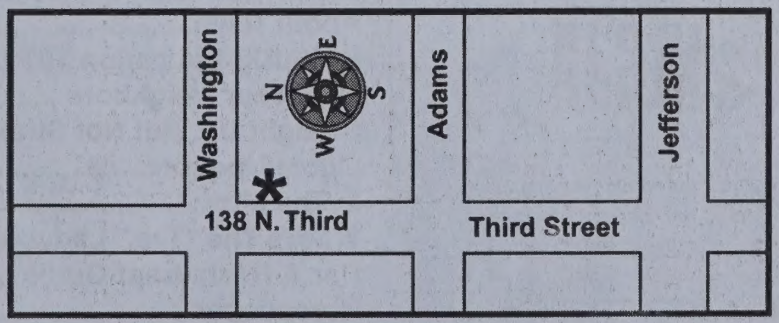


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VOL. 5, NO. 11

FAMILY and friends MAGAZINE

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# With Bush, things aren't always as they seem

You know, things aren't always as they seem. And things often aren't as bad as they look.

In January, The Bush Administration nominated Jerry Thacker to the Presidential Advisory Commission on HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, the HIV-positive Thacker seems to be extremely anti-gay, as evidenced by his own words published on his own website at www.scepter.org. One example: he refers to homosexuality as a "deathstyle." Thacker makes it clear he contracted the virus from his wife, who received it during a blood transfusion. He is not gay.

Not being gay is one thing, but such negative propaganda toward a group of people is another. Especially from a person holding a national public office representing all the people.

Uh oh, we thought as we hit the print button for the press release, another right-wing fundamentalist moves into a power position. "What do we do now?," fear whispered in our ear. "Do we need to go back in the closet? Is it safer there?"

Fear is an ugly thing. It is the long shadow of someone or something coming around the corner. Fear lies to us and paralyzes us. Fear is what puts those questions in our minds. But, in the end, we know that truth sets us free.

Within a couple of days, things weren't as they seemed. Thacker's appointment met a brick wall in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, among others. With a flood of correspondence landing on the desks of the powers that be, including stern opinions from The Human Rights Campaign, as well as the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, expressing their opinion that Thacker would only cause division on a panel whose makeup includes those of the GLBT community, not to mention the purpose of which is making important decisions for many GLBT persons who are HIV positive.

Thacker stepped down.

Looks like Thacker is just a man and wasn't as big as his shadow was.

It seems since Bush took office there have been many scares such as this with GLBT appointments, or the lack thereof. Whereas Clinton appointed close to 100 GLBT individuals to his administration, Bush has left it at the "token" level which you can count on two hands.

But, perhaps, the people's voice is much louder than Bush's choices for his administration. Perhaps the administration is not as powerful as it seems and appears to, at least sometimes, bow to the wishes of the people. Remember, we are still a democracy.

With Bush biting at the bit to have a war with Saddam, or whoever, Americans have returned to the streets and parks with their placards demanding a more peaceful solution. All across America, as well as the world, peace demonstrations were held in January to make it known to Bush that not everyone agrees with his warmongering.

It is nice to know that the '60s has come around and born fruit. All those anti-Vietnam War rallies and marches back then, all by the seat of our collective pants, have taught the new generation how it's done. Likewise, the peaceful demonstrations of the black movement, whereby the black man and woman made it known to the white man that prejudice and discrimination would no longer be

**See And Our Point, page 10**


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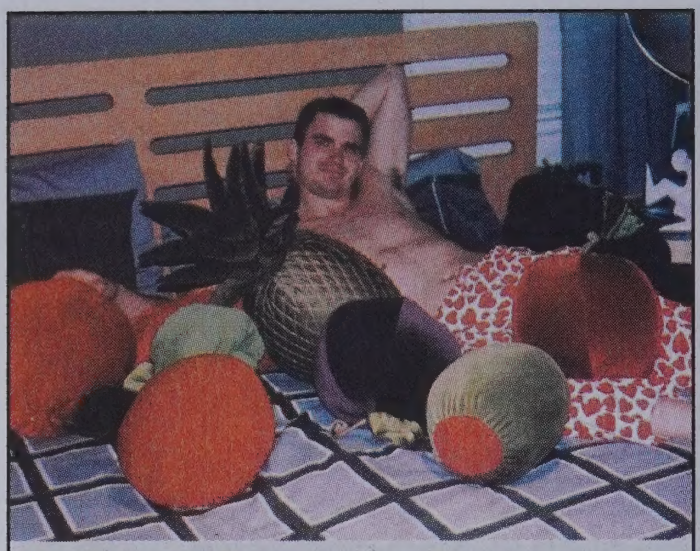

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## In honor of Black History Month

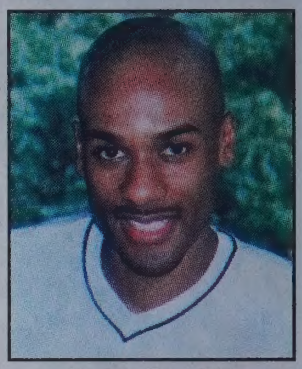
# 4 gay African-Americans are among those making history

By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

Black history month, February, looks at all those of African descent who have left their marks on history, whether it be to the benefit of the black man and woman or all of mankind. Many, many men and women of African descent, who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, are included in those numbers.

*Family & Friends* selected four of the abundance of individuals who easily qualify to be in this honored group. Here we would like to introduce you to Keith Boykin, Dr. Rev. Shirlene Holmes, Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks and Chief Justice Deborah Batts.

### Keith Boykin



Keith Boykin

Keith Boykin is an author, a lecturer, a commentator, an educator, a lawyer and was a former special assistant to President Clinton.

"I graduated from Harvard in 1992," Boykin told *Family & Friends* in a telephone interview, "and moved to California to work for a law firm. Shortly before taking the law review, the Clinton campaign called me and offered me a job. I quickly agreed, moving to Little Rock, Ark. I had no idea he would win.

"I then applied for a position at the White House," Boykin continued. "I held several jobs there, including director of news analysis and director of specialty media.

"Leaders of various organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, met with President Clinton before the 1993 March on Washington," Boykin, who is credited with organizing that historical meeting between a gay and lesbian delegation and a president of the United States, said.

From September 1995, to February 1998, Boykin served as the executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.

He spoke at a rally before the 1995 Million Man March and his "A Poem for the Millennium March," was featured from the stage of the Millennium March on Washington in 2000.

His first book, *One More River to Cross: Black and Gay in America*, is still in use as a textbook in colleges and universities across the U.S. His second book, *Respecting the Soul: Daily Reflections for Black Lesbians and Gays*, won the 1999 Lambda Literary Award for Spirituality.

**See Black Gay History, page 58**

The top four teams in women's college basketball are making a fast break to Atlanta for a week of championship fun, April 4-8. Get into the game by visiting the city that embraces inclusion — in political leadership, business policies and gay-friendly neighborhoods where couples walk hand-in-hand. A city that celebrates diversity. A city full of possibilities and endless choices. Check out the sports action from open practices to autograph sessions as excitement builds for the big games.

Chill out at the Victory Fund's "Winning Women" party with MC Kate Clinton and women leaders from all walks of life on April 7. Hoops week in Hotlanta – a slam-dunk of a good time!

Atlanta welcomes you!

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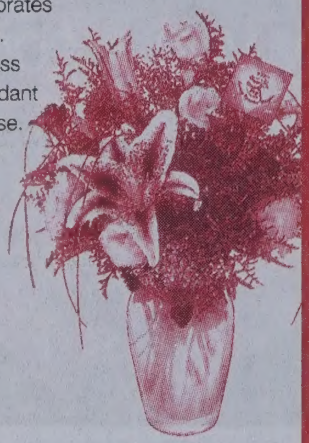

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# Brooks to host lily exhibit

"Georgia O'Keeffe and the Calla Lily in American Art, 1860-1940," the first exhibition to examine this exotic bloom as a popular and essentially modern subject, will be on display Feb. 23 through May 4 at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park.

The exhibit includes 50 depictions of this elegant bloom by more than 30 different artists, such as Imogen Cunningham, Charles Demuth, Marsden Hartley, Georgia O'Keeffe, Joseph Stella and Edward Weston. O'Keeffe, with eight paintings included in the exhibit, became known as "The Lady of the Lily" in the 1920s because of her intense interest in the calla, which she depicted frequently and in marvelously proactive ways.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. On the first Wednesday of each month the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Admission is $6 for adults; $5 for seniors (65+), and $2 for students with valid ID. For more information, go online to www.brooksmuseum.org or call (901) 544-6200.

## And Our Point

from page 6

tolerated, has taught us equally. Was it easy for any of them? No, it was hard as hell to stand up against "the way things are." But, in the end, truth prevailed.

At what point was Rosa Parks a free woman? We say when she told the white man she was not giving up her seat to him on that bus. Yes, she broke the law – blacks could sit near the front of the bus only until a white person showed up and then had to relinquish the seat to them and move to the back of the bus.

As part of the GLBT community, we would all do well to learn that we don't have to wait for the law to change, for the "white man" to say it is okay, before we take our seat anywhere on the bus. As GLBT individuals, we have to know in our heart what we are doing is right. If we are fired from our job because, if for no other reason, that we are homosexual, then the law prevails at this point. Although loosing a job is not at all something we would wish on anyone, it is important that we do not give into the temptation of being a victim of discrimination, but instead, walk with our head held high and do all we can to find a job that is not run by ignorant individuals with hate on their mind. It is important that we get up from the back of the bus and sit where we want. It won't always be easy, it never is.

Our point is this, Let's not wallow in self-pity but take up our rightful place in this democracy we call America.

## Who said chivalry is dead?

# Meet Memphis's SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN

By LAINE MCNEIL, senior staff writer

Who ever said chivalry is dead in the 21st century has never met Memphis's Southern Gentlemen.

Like knights in shining armor, or rather elegant tuxedos, this group of gay Memphians, rode into Memphis's GLBT community on their noble steeds, okay, more accurately, they sat behind the steering wheels of their Beemers and Benzes, etc., and have gallantly been slaying the funding dragon with their philantropic swords.

And, for those who think we jest in calling these guys "knights in shining armor," just ask Shelia Tankersley, founder and executive director of Loving Arms, a major recipient of the Gentlemen's deeds for the past 14 years.

Thanks to the Southern Gentlemen's annual fundraising Christmas Party, more than $15,000 was raised in 2002, alone, to help Loving Arms provide toys to Memphis-area children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. Other organizations that have benefitted from the Gentlemen's generousity since the organization's inception in 1988, include Gensis House, the gay softball league, Friends For Life and the American Heart Association.

Of course we would be remiss if we didn't note that the monies raised by the Gentlemen come mostly from the guests of the events, however, the events wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the Southern Gentlemen.

In fact, the group's annual, invitation only, Christmas Party, which was first hosted at The Flower Shop and attened by 75 people in 1994, has continued to grow to the point every year that about the only venue in Memphis large enough to accommodate the party next year may very well be the Pyramid. This year's party boasted more than 700 attendees.

Looking dashingly handsome are Southern Gentlemen, from left, Billy Buchanan, Stephen Swords and Dr. Shawn Hayden.

Billy Buchanan founded the Southern Gentlemen, along with his friends and charter members Ben Como, Chris Miller, Rick Beasley, Rob Tarbell and Kerry Palmertree, as a "group of friends who would get together, have a party for their friends to celebrate the holiday season and give something back to the community." This mission still applies today and the group's by-invitation-only membership presently numbers 15.

A Southern Gentlemen's party, for those who've never attended one, is a party with a capital "P." Through the years, the venues have been varied, the entertainment top-notch and the guest list celebrity-studded, which has included the likes of Cybil Sheppard, Justin Timberlake and Brittney Spears.

"The hosts personally pay all the expenses associated with a party, so the charity receives all the money raised, without incurring any costs – they receive the gross profits raised," noted Southern Gentleman Stephen Swords.

The group plans to seek its 501(c)3 status as a non-profit organization in the future.

"Gallantry, charm, hospitality and the gentility of the Antebellum days, coupled with a good sense of humor," is how Buchanan describes a 21st century Southern Gentleman.

Some members of the Southern Gentlemen hosted a Friends For Life A Place At The Table dinner party this past fall, complete with a cabaret-style performance during dinner. Pictured here with some Gentlemen hosts of the party are some of the evening's entertainers.

Born one minute after midnight, January 1, 2003, a five-pound, twi -ounce BABY GIRL came into the world to greet her parents, HELEN RIBIN, 33, and JOANNA BARE, 35. Congratulations to the Washington, D.C.-area couple.

*Family & Friends* sends out its deepest sympathies to the family of ANTHONY HARDAWAY in the passing of his mother, ABERDEAN "MS. ABBY" CRAWFORD, on Jan. 3. Our prays are with her family.

On the tube, look for NATHAN LANE in another sitcom, where he plays Charlie Lawrence, an openly-gay Congressman. Lane will hold the reigns on this engagement, set to begin in March on CBS, as lead actor, executive producer and writer.

According to a report on Gay.com/PlanetOut.com, TOM CRUISE won a $10 million judgement in his lawsuit against Chad Slater who stated in a French magazine interview, in 2001, that he and Cruise had had an affair. Slater later recounted his story and admitted his story was made up.

The annual KING AND QUEEN OF HEARTS fundraiser for FRIENDS FOR LIFE will be held at the Madison Flame, 1588 Madison Avenue, on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. This is the 12th time around for the event's founder Jimmy Gray. Although the girls of APHRODITE did a great job last year putting on the show, Gray has returned to the helm of this fundraiser solo with a new band of volunteers. Vote for your king or your queen and help a great cause at the same time.

FRIENDS FOR LIFE CORPORATION has come up with a different idea for getting tested for HIV/AIDS. How about a party? You invite the folks and throw the party; FFL will send out trained staff to give free OraSure tests, which uses a saliva sample, as well as providing info on HIV/AIDS. For more information, call (901) 272-0855.

We understand the first black gay club has been opened in CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. It is called MI-NITE and is located at 27 West 19th Street. It is open Thursday through Sunday, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

For you "AMERICAN IDOL" fans, KELLY CLARKSON is appearing in the gay-themed film *Issues 101*. The film is premiering on the OutoftheCloset.tv Internet Film Festival during the month of February.

NASHVILLE'S METRO COUNCIL had set Jan. 21 as the date for voting on a proposal to add homosexuals and people with disabilities to the city's fair employment and housing laws. However, amidst the heated discussions from the gallery, including the damnation comments of so-called Rev. FRED PHELPS, the council instead voted 20 to 17 in favor of DEFERRING THE BILL for two meetings. Go online to www.equalitytennessee.org to find out more.

According to an MGLCC press release, "THE MGLCC NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY was a great success, with over 50 in attendance. Guests were entertained by emcees Anna Mae & Emma Rae, as well as the comedic lyrics of our very own Vincent Astor. Kevin Dugan provided music throughout the evening..."

THE ST. PATRICKS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (SPIT) is fast approaching its annual bowling event set for the weekend of St. Patrick's Day. To help this group cover the costs of the tournament, everyone is invited to "come out for an evening of outrageous fun with Memphis' grandest dames" at the Madison Flame, 1588 Madison Avenue on Friday, Feb. 21, at 10:30 p.m. for the "LADIES OF SPIT" SHOW.

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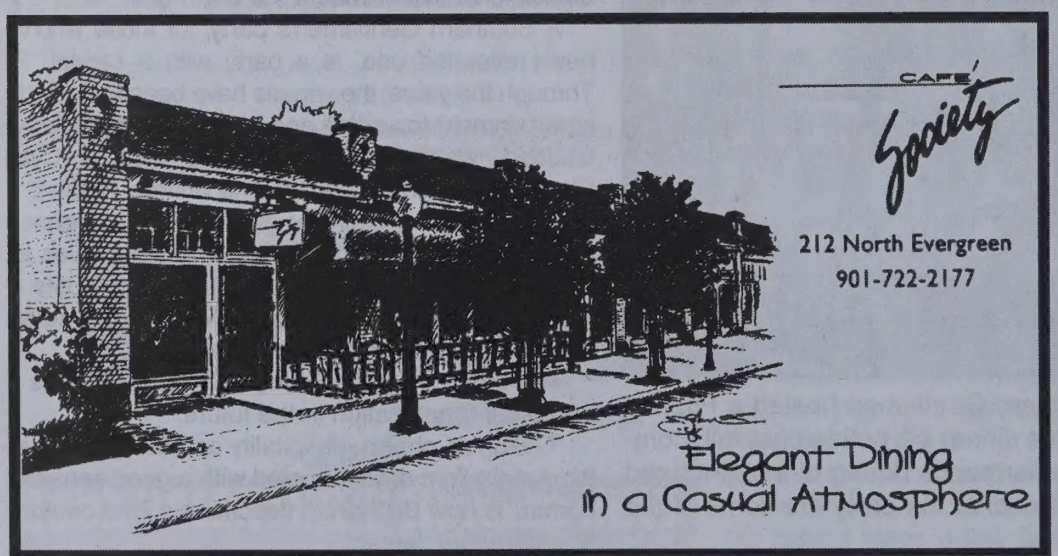
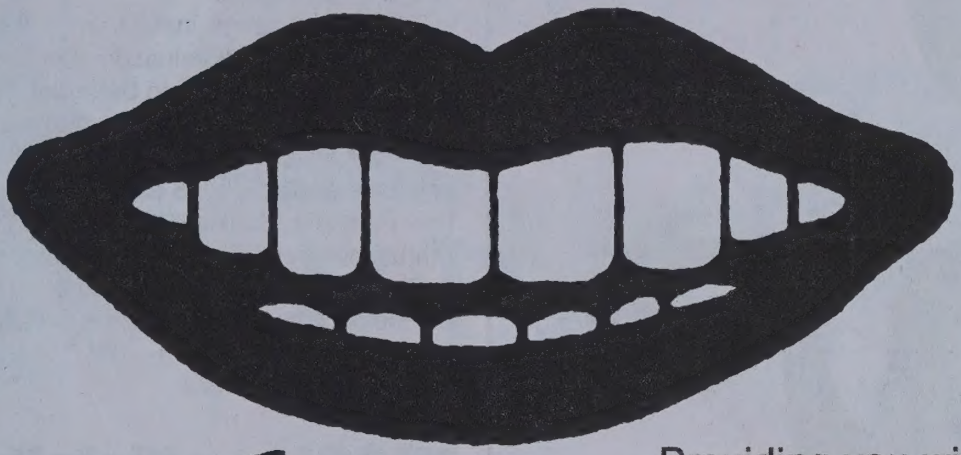
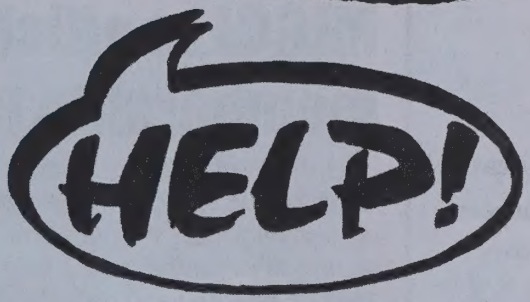


# AND NOW A WORD FROM YOUR TEETH....



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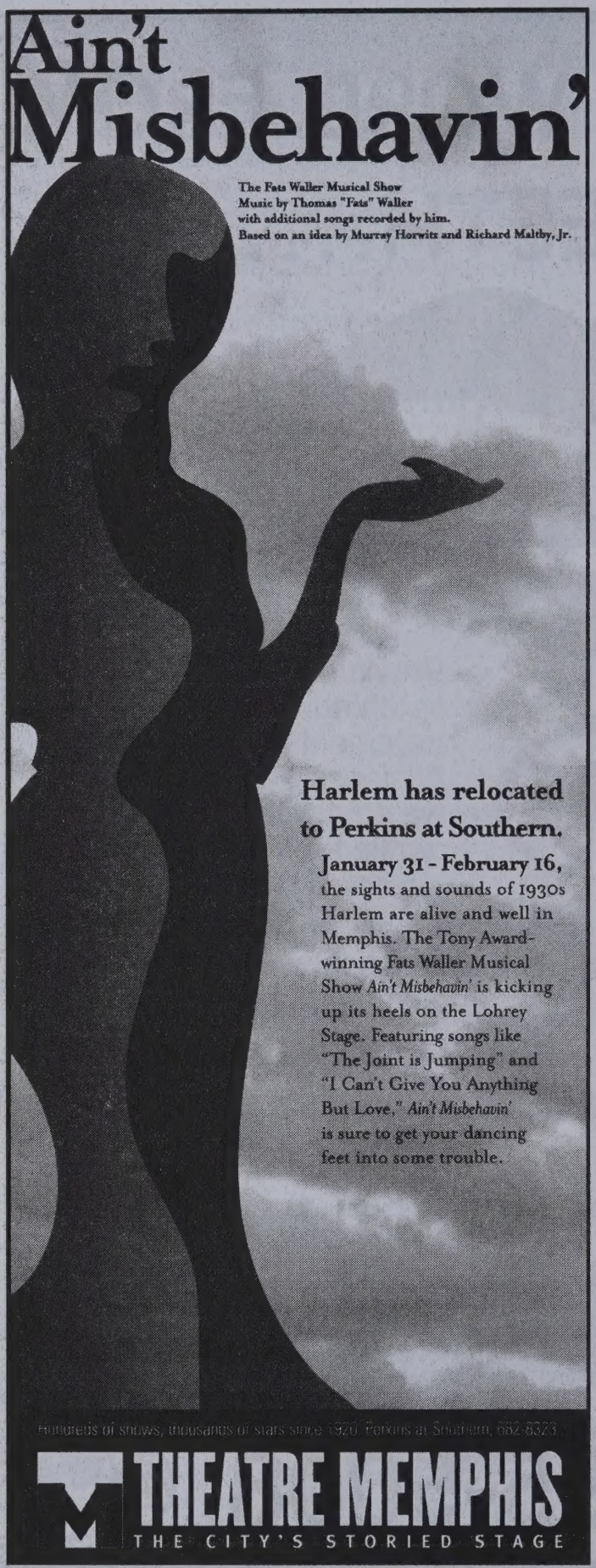
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the sights and sounds of 1930s Harlem are alive and well in Memphis. The Tony Award-winning Fats Waller Musical Show Ain't Misbehavin' is kicking up its heels on the Lohrey Stage. Featuring songs like "The Joint is Jumping" and "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," Ain't Misbehavin' is sure to get your dancing feet into some trouble.
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# Tsarus's Man of Year set

Tsarus will present its 19th annual Man of the Year Award for Outstanding Service to the Gay and Lesbian Community on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Crossroads, located at 111 North Claybrook at Jefferson, during a banquet beginning at 7 p.m.

Past awards have been presented to not just men, but organizations and women. A donation of $500 will be made to the charity of the winner's choice. Tsarus members are not eligible.

Tsarus welcomes input from the community. Anyone wishing to make a nomination should call (901) 358-3051 or (901) 358-5356 prior to Saturday, Feb. 15.

Members of Tsarus prepare and serve the banquet dinner, which includes soup, salad, entree and dessert. Tickets, which are available at $8 each, are available at Crossroads, The Pumping Station (1382 Poplar Avenue), from any Tsarus member or by calling the numbers listed above.

Proceeds from the ticket sales cover the cost of the meal and the $500 award. This event is not a fundraiser for Tsarus.

Tsarus, founded in 1977, is Memphis' oldest Levi/Leather men's club.

# MLGCJ to officially disban, membership to merge

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice will officially dissolve as a separate organization to merge with Equality Tennessee, a statewide organization working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in Tennessee.

Equality Tennessee is a statewide GLBT non-profit organization working to promote equality and the elimination of prejudice and discrimination in the state.

Through the education of the citizens of Tennessee about GLBT life, history, social issues and civic responsibility, Equality Tennessee seeks to promote the defense of human and civil rights for members of the GLBT community.

The statewide board of Equality Tennessee will be meeting in Memphis on Saturday, Feb. 15, at noon, in the fellowship hall of First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper.

Prior to the board meeting, Equality Tennessee will hold a townhall meeting beginning at 11 a.m. to meet with individuals of the Memphis GLBT community to discuss issues and concerns that can be addressed locally and statewide. Everyone is invited and welcome to come to this meeting to share ideas and suggestions, and learn about Equality Tennessee and its mission.

Equality Tennessee also will host a reception on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Monks, located at 2158 Central Avenue in the Mid-Town Food Co-Op, for anyone interested in learning more about this organization.

For more information, visit Equality Tennessee's website at www.equalitytennessee.org. or call Jim Maynard at (901) 327-2677 or email him at jmaynard@midsouth.rr.com.

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from 3p-3a

Can you tell me how to get to the 123 SESAME STREET party?

enjoy $2 well drinks from 10p-1a

SATURDAY february 22nd

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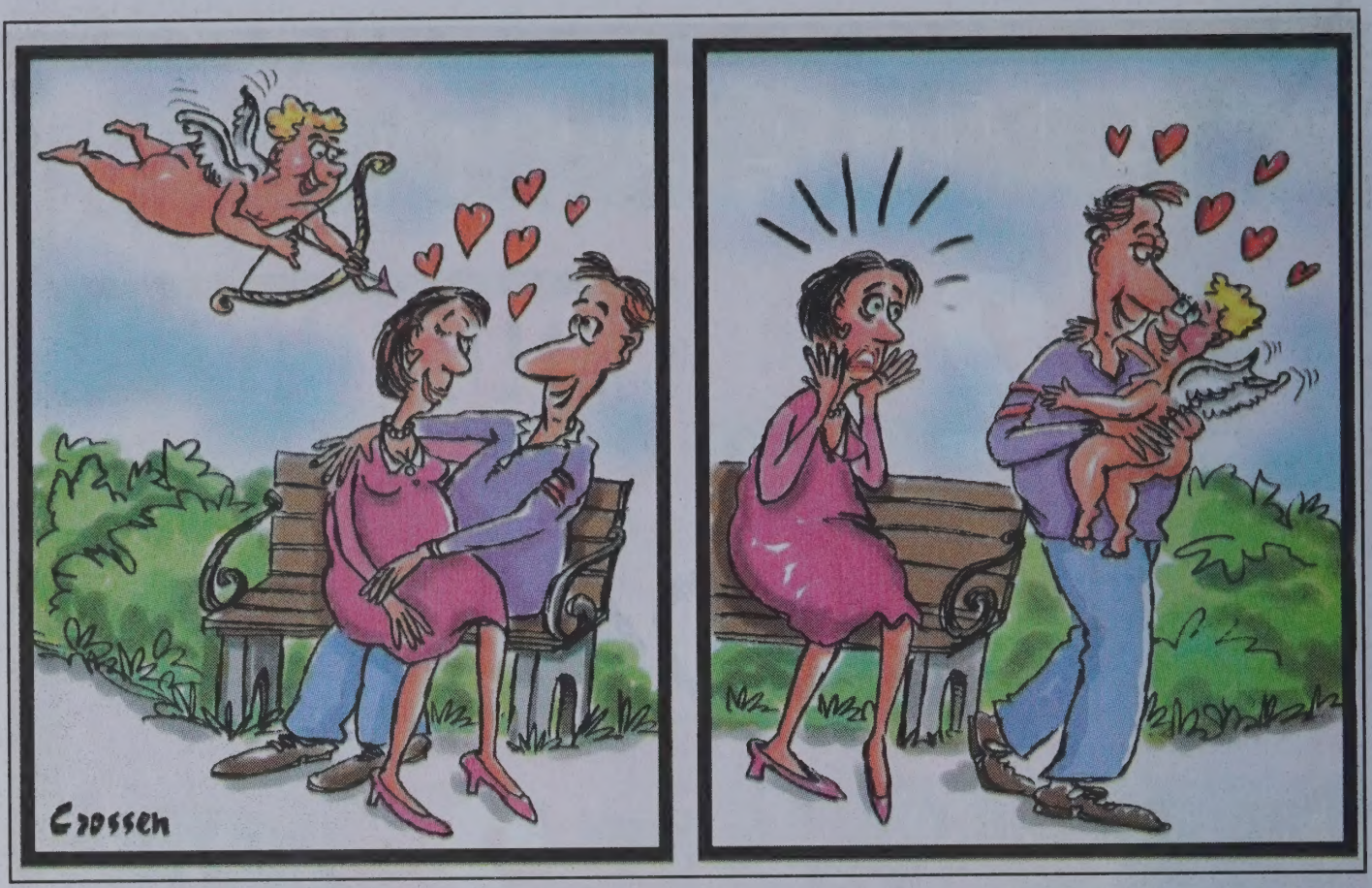


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# The Southern Gentlemen

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Emily Higgs - Shane Trice - Rick Morgan - Steve Nichols - Richard Caruso - Dan Cannon - Joyce Williams - John Love - Phyllis Duncan - Keith Riggins

**Thanks to you, children infected & affected by HIV/AIDS had a wonderful Christmas!**

# ONE MORE

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The "Monkey" Is BACK!

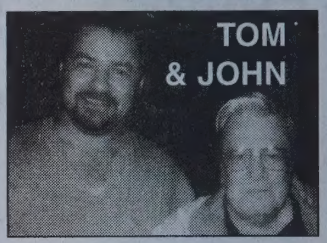
## KITCHEN OPEN

## TILL 2 A.M.

## Just ask ...

## Made To Order

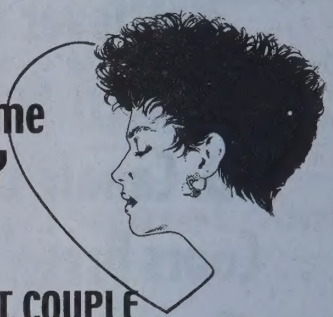
## Thanks for a great BIRTHDAY




HAPPY

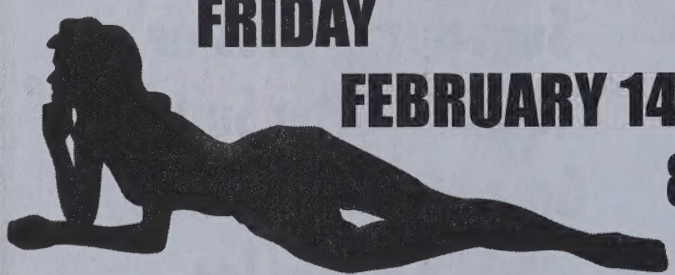
## VALENTINE'S DAY

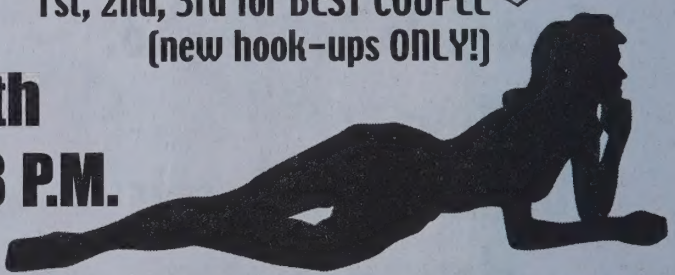
SINGLE WOMEN, come out and get TRASHY and "hook-up!"



1st, 2nd, 3rd for BEST COUPLE
(new hook-ups ONLY!)

## FRIDAY
## FEBRUARY 14th
## 8 P.M.





## COME PARTY WITH THE HOG!

PARTY!!!!

# GROUNDHOG PARTY

## SUNDAY 4 PM UNTIL ???

CAROL PLUNK on Wed. & Sun.

KARAOKE on Fridays

# It's great to give, but can you deduct it?

"It's tax deductible," doesn't always mean "It's tax deductible." Unfortunately, in the world of taxation, especially that by the Internal Revenue Service, questions regarding taxation often are not a black and white issue, but a hazy one at best, with lots of "ifs, ands or buts" required to answer what one thought was just a "simple" question.

In order to shine a little better light on the subject of the IRS tax benefits of donations to charitable organizations, *Family & Friends* went to the "horse's mouth" and this is what we found:

Give For Good Measure

Reprinted from www.irs.gov/newsroom

"... You may be able to use your gifts to tax-exempt charitable and religious groups to reduce your taxes.

"There also are some simple steps to keep in mind to make sure you get appropriate benefit for your generous donations. In particular, there are some important guidelines for donating used cars and other property, such as stocks and bonds.

"The tax benefit from charitable contributions is only available for taxpayers who itemize deductions – about one third of all filers. Those who take a standard deduction receive no additional tax benefit for their contributions.

"In 1999, the last year for which complete data is available, about 35.5 million taxpayers made deducible charitable contributions totalling nearly $125.8 billion. Of these gifts, nearly $88.3 billion were cash donations.

"Only contributions actually made during the tax year are deductible. For example, if you pledged $500 in September 2002, but paid the charity only $200 by Dec. 31, your 2002 deduction would be $200. You can include credit card charges and payments by check in the year they are given to the charity, even though you may not pay the credit card bill or have your bank account debited (a.e. the check clear the bank) until the next year.

"Those itemizing deductions reduce their taxable income by the total contributed to qualified tax-exempt organizations, with some limits. The tax savings usually equals the deduction times the marginal tax rate – the top rate for the person's (couple's) income level.

"For example, an individual with a taxable income of $50,000 donates $2,000 to his or her church. The tax savings from this generosity will be $540 – $2,000 times the taxpayer's marginal tax rate of 27 percent.

"Donations of stock or other property are usually valued at the fair market value of the property. For stocks and bonds with an active market, the fair market value is the average price between highest and lowest selling price on the valuation date.

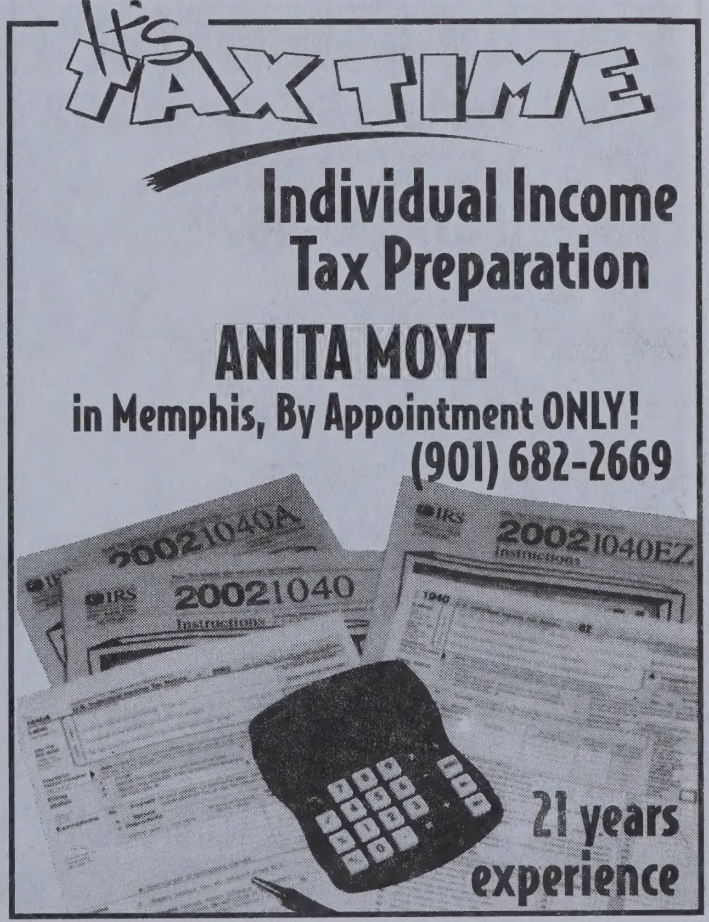
"Figuring the value of other personal property can be more complicated. For example, determining the value of a donated used car requires weighing several factors. Some car donation program operators have mistakenly suggested that donors can take as a deduction the full value listed in an established used car pricing guide.

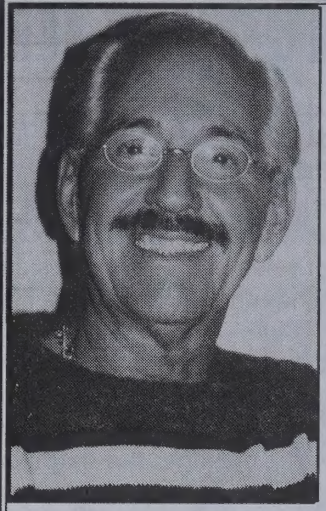
"The tax law, however, allows a deduction for only the fair market value of the car. Fair market value takes into account not only the year, the model and the mileage of the car, but also the local market and the vehicle's condition. As a result, the fair market value of the taxpayer's car may be substantially different than the average price listed in an established used car guide.

"You should also keep appropriate records to substantiate the value of your gifts. For example, for any single gift of $250 or more, you must have a written acknowledgment from the charity by either the date you file your tax return or the filing deadline, including extensions, whichever is earlier. If you donated property valued at more than $5,000, you must get a qualified written appraisal.

"For more help with donations, refer to Publication 526: Charitable Contributions. A second referral, Publication 561, Determining the Value of Donated Property, may answer many of the questions donors have when they make noncash contributions."

Both of these publications are available online at www.irs.gov. The publications also are available by calling (800) TAX-FORM (829-3676).



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# Lambda Legal files brief in hopes of legal change

Lambda Legal filed its brief on Jan. 16 urging the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" law, which criminalizes oral and anal sex by consenting gay couples and is widely used to justify discrimination against lesbians and gay men. A diverse array of some of the nation's most respected organizations, including conservative groups, civil rights organizations, religious groups and health professionals, filed friend-of-the-court briefs on Lambda Legal's behalf, also asking the U.S. Supreme Court to declare the Texas law unconstitutional.

Lambda Legal represents John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, who were arrested in Lawrence's Houston home and jailed overnight after officers, responding to a false report, found the men engaged in private, consensual sex. Once convicted of violating the "Homosexual Conduct" law, they were forced to pay fines and are now considered sex offenders in several states.

"This is a tremendously important case for gay people and for everyone who believes in basic freedoms. These laws are an affront to equality, invade the most private sphere of adult life and harm gay people in many ways," said Ruth Harlow, legal director at Lambda Legal and the lead attorney in the case.

"The state should not have the power to go into the bedrooms of consenting adults in the middle of the night and arrest them," Harlow said. "But that's only the beginning of the damage done by this law and others like it around the country. These laws are widely used to justify discrimination against gay people in everyday life; they're invoked in denying employment to gay people, in refusing custody or visitation for gay parents and even in intimidating gay people out of exercising their free speech rights."

In addition to Texas, three states – Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma – still have consensual sodomy laws that apply only to gay people. Nine states – Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Utah – and Puerto Rico – still have consensual sodomy laws that apply to straight and gay adults, but are invoked almost exclusively against lesbians and gay men in everyday life. These laws typically ban oral and anal sex and carry penalties that range from fines to 10 years in prison.

Organizations in Texas and all of the other states with sodomy laws are among the scores of groups that filed more than a dozen friend-of-the-court briefs on Jan. 16 urging the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down Texas's law. Those groups include:

• The CATO Institute, telling the court that laws like the one in Texas violate personal liberties and contradict the nation's historical commitment to freedom from governmental intrusion.

**See Lambda Legal, page 35**

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# Make plans now to see Lily Tomlin in March

Out lesbian comedian and winner of six Emmys, a Tony and a Grammy Lily Tomlin is headed to Memphis next month as a guest in the 75th Anniversary Speakers Series, presented by The Orpheum and Union Planters Bank.

She is scheduled to discuss her life and career in "An Evening with Lily Tomlin" on Monday, March 3, beginning at 7 p.m. at The Orpheum as part of the 2003 Speaker's Series. Following her discussion, Tomlin will answer questions from the audience.

Tomlin, whose birth name is Mary Jean Tomlin, was graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, which is where she put her academic ability in math and science towards a pre-med degree. However, during her sophomore year she appeared as a walk-on in her first play, *The Madwoman Of Charlotte*. Additional theater performances followed, and in her junior year, she dropped out of school and moved to New York to pursue a career as an actress.

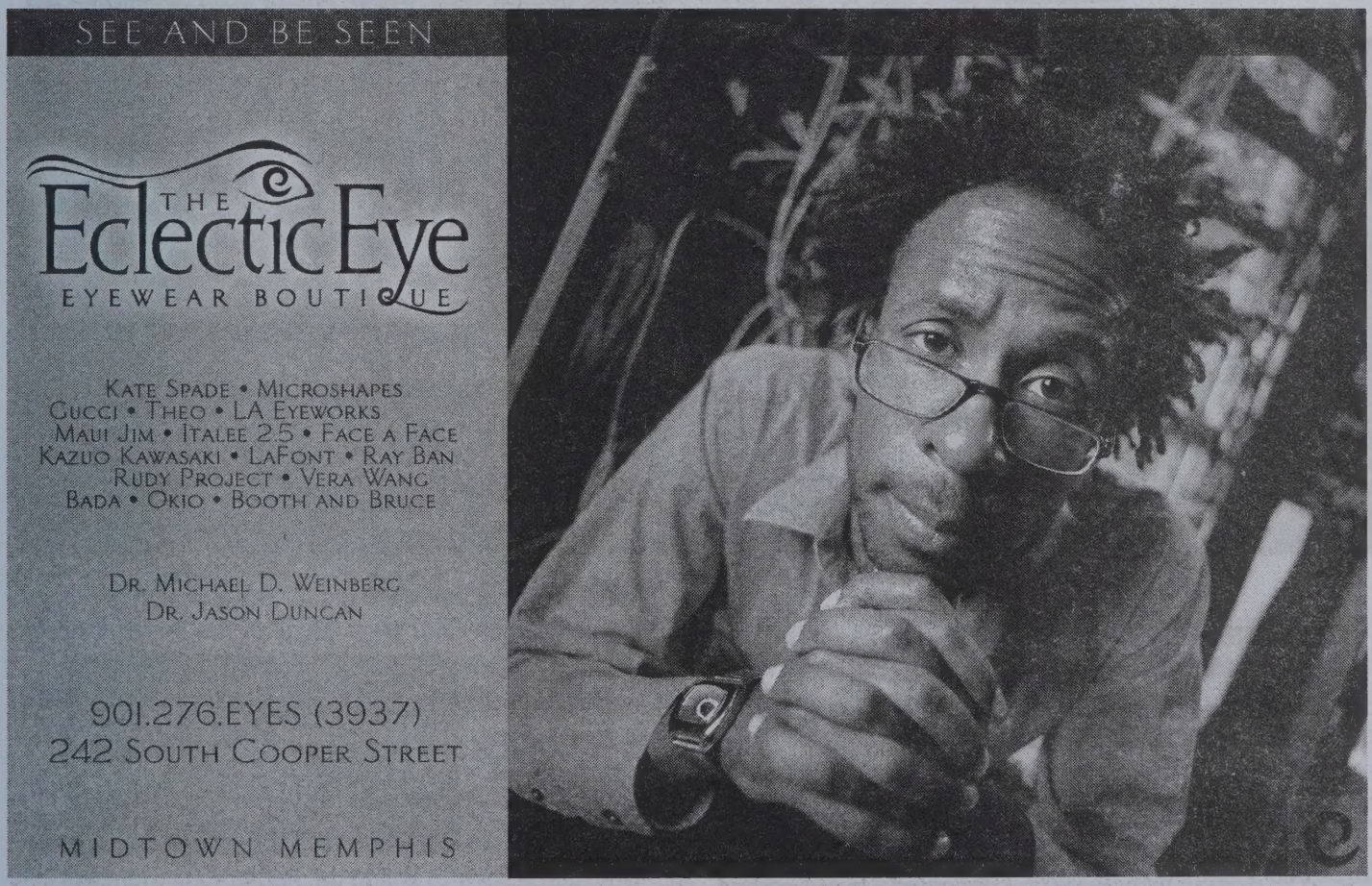
One of Tomlin's first gigs was as a waitress at Howard Johnson's on Broadway near Times Square. Her comments to customers and staff heard over the restaurant's mic attracted her first real audience. During her salad days, she studied mime from Paul Curtis and acting with none other than the great Thespian Charles Nelson Reilly.

Tomlin got her first big break as a cast member of "Rowan And Martin's Laugh-In," creating some of her most memorable characters, like telephone operator Ernestine (one ringy-dingy, two ringy-dingy) and Edith Ann, the irresistible six-year old child with a 42-year old's vocabulary. "Laugh-In" led to numerous nightclub appearances and successful comedy record albums.

She made her film debut in 1975, in Robert Altman's *Nashville*, winning wide acclaim for her role as the mother of a hearing-impaired child, which earned her an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress. Additional cinematic success followed with *The Late Show* in 1977, *9 to 5* in 1980, and *All Of Me* in 1984.

Tomlin also collaborated with her partner, award-winning writer Jane Wagner, on two Tony-award winning Broadway shows, *Appearing Nitely* and *The Search For Intelligent Life In The Universe,* which was revived by Tomlin around the country. More recently, Tomlin was a regular on "Murphy Brown" and appeared in the films *Get Bruce* and *The Kid.*

Tickets, which range in price from $55 to $35, can be purchased at The Orpheum Box Office, the Orpheum counter at Davis-Kidd Booksellers and all TicketMaster locations; charged by phone by calling (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS, or online at www.orpheum-memphis.com.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## Come Join as We Celebrate Our New Home at 685 S. Highland Ave

- March 1, 5:30PM Brief Service of Dedication
- March 2, 11:00AM Sunday Service

## Come Travel With Us July 14-25, 2003

Holy Trinity Community Church will be making a trip to England this summer and we would like for you to join us. We have secured a wonderful 12 day tour, where will be staying in London, Bath, Stratford on the Avon a Brighton. If you would like to learn more about this exciting trip please phone the church at 320-9376 or email us at htccmemphis@aol.com. We will provide you with a complete itinerary and information.

# Mississippi group files brief

On Jan. 16, Equality Mississippi, Mississippi's statewide gay and lesbian civil rights organization, submitted an amicus brief as part of a case the U.S. Supreme Court will hear regarding the Texas sodomy law.

The case, brought by national gay and lesbian legal organization Lambda Legal, challenges the constitutionality of Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" law, which criminalizes oral and anal sex by consenting gay couples and is used widely to justify discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in this matter could also affect sodomy laws in 12 other states, including Mississippi.

Mississippi's sodomy law applies to both heterosexuals and homosexuals and refers to sodomy as "unnatural intercourse." The law makes it a felony for consenting adults to have oral or anal sex and provides for penalties of up to 10 years in prison.

In one case where the sodomy law was involved, a Mississippi man was denied custody of his own child based on the presumption that since he was gay, he was in violation of the state's sodomy law.

In early 1994, residents in Ovett, Miss., circulated petitions to urge the enforcement of the Mississippi sodomy law, as part of their stance against a lesbian couple, Brenda and Wanda Henson, buying land and building a campground in the area. Although this petition was aimed at gay and lesbian people, the Mississippi law is neutral both as to gender and marital status, so the anti-gay people unwittingly were urging prosecution of themselves.

The women did buy the land and built Camp Sister Spirit, which is still there today, going strong.

"I know that even in conservative Mississippi," said Equality Mississippi Executive Director Jody Renaldo, "Christian couples and Mississippi lawmakers go to bed nightly and break the Mississippi sodomy law, thereby making them(selves) felons. If Mississippians knew that Mississippi law polices what they do in their own beds, they would be outraged. We find often that most Mississippians do not even know this law exists until they are charged with it. If you can't have privacy in your own bedroom, where can you have privacy?"

In 2001, Mississippi enacted a sex offender registration law. The law includes convictions for sodomy and requires those convicted of sodomy to register with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety by providing, among other things, address of residence, fingerprints, a photograph, place of employment and a biological sample such as a strand of hair or blood. Those convicted must also notify the department of any changes in address and employment.

"It's ridiculous that what consenting adults do in their bedrooms can land them in prison and on Mississippi's sex offender registry," Renaldo said.

Lambda Legal filed its brief – and an array of the nation's most respected civil rights organizations, conservative groups and health associations filed supportive briefs – with the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 16.

For more information, go online to www.equalityms.org.

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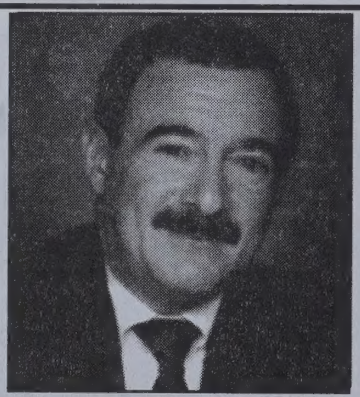

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# Gay & Lesbian Business Expo set in New York City

The 10th International Gay & Lesbian Business and Entertainment Expo is set for Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23, at the Jarvis Center in New York City.

The promoters of the 10th International Gay & Lesbian Business and Entertainment Expo say it is the largest event of its kind in the world and has become a significant event for the GLBT community. More than 21,000 people attended the event last year.

In this business-to-business marketing environment, exhibitors are surrounded by hundreds of exciting networking opportunities, not only with attendees, but with other exhibiting companies both large and small. New products and services will be introduced and top companies will be recruiting. More than 300 exhibits are planned.

Entertainment will be provided throughout both days of the event. Special events include *The New York Times* "Time Talk Series;" psychic channeller "Aunti Lynn," and an appearance by John Carrol from the CBS "Survivor" Series. Also on the agenda are adopt-a-pet, fashion shows, goods and beverages sampling, exciting travel giveaways and much more.

For exhibit or attendance information, call (800) 243-9774 or go online to www.rdpgroup.com/glexpo.

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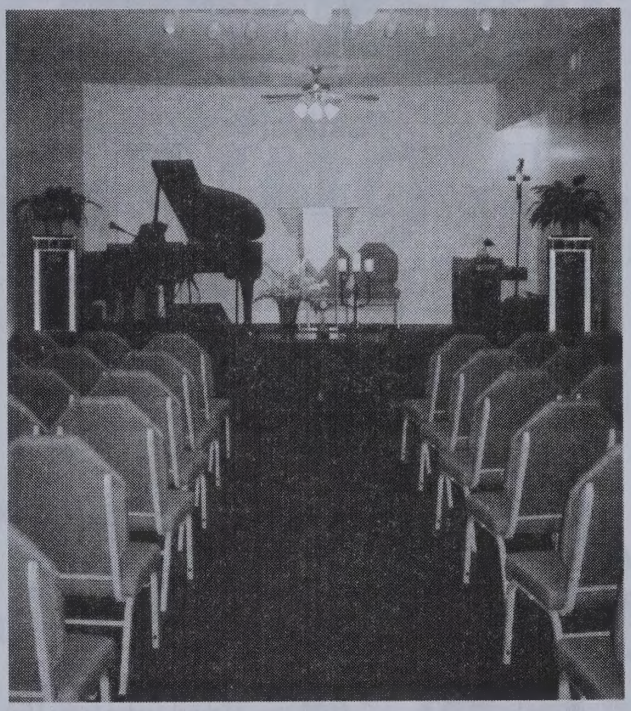

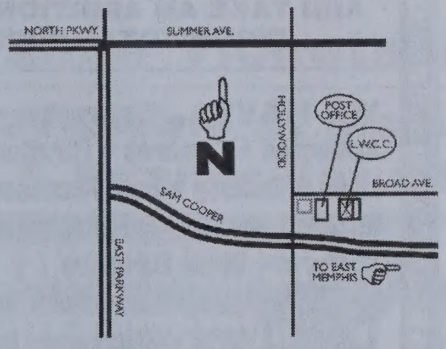

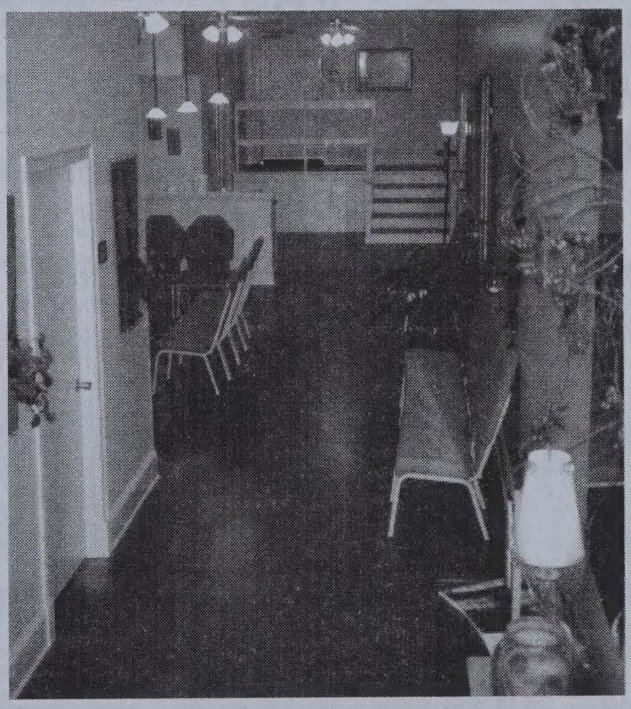

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Saturday
10:00 a.m. Space Station
11:30 a.m. Michael Jordan to the Max
1:00 p.m. Alaska: Spirit of the Wild
2:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark
3:00 p.m. Dolphins
4:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil
5:00 p.m. Michael Jordan to the Max
7:00 p.m. Dolphins
8:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil

Sunday
1:00 p.m. Alaska: Spirit of the Wild
2:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark
3:00 p.m. Dolphins
4:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil
5:00 p.m. Michael Jordan to the Max

Monday (February 17)
10:00 a.m. Space Station
11:30 a.m. Michael Jordan to the Max
1:00 p.m. Alaska: Spirit of the Wild
2:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark
3:00 p.m. Dolphins
4:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil

Operated by the City of Memphis Division of Park Services and Memphis Museums, Inc.

## 'Queer As Folk'

The saga of gay life on Liberty Avenue continues with the third season premiere of Showtime's "Queer As Folk," Sunday, March 2, at 9 p.m. Join Brian, Michael, Justin, Emmett, Ted, Lindsay, Melanie, Deb and Uncle Vic as a big surprise in Michael's life awaits.


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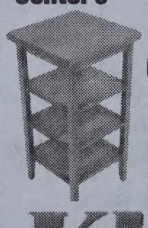

Klassie Klutter

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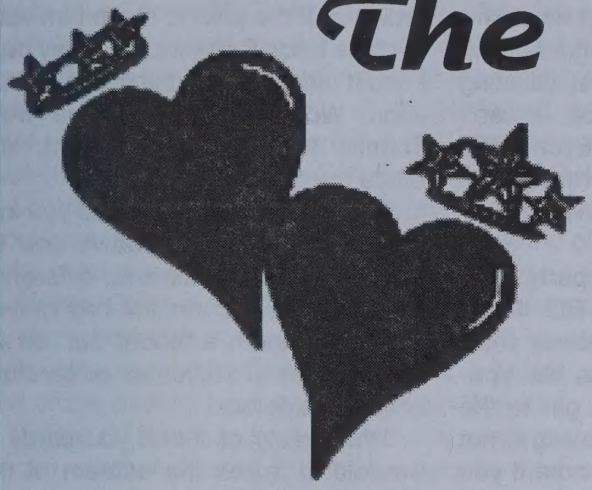

# The 12th Annual King & Queen of Hearts 2003

*A fundraiser for Friends For Life*

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# Ask Lam by Lam Medallion

**Dear Lam,**

This is more of a compliment than a problem. I have read your column in *Family & Friends* now faithfully for four years. Because of it, Mrs. Lam, I have met a wonderful man. I should tell you I am also a man. My new beau is kind, gentle, loving and, most of all Lam, he respects me for who I am and I feel the same way about him that he feels about me.

Lam, if it had not been for the advice that you have given your countless readers over the years, I would have not been able to ask this man to be my life's partner. I hope that you will print this letter to show other people how you have helped me.

**Simply Thanx**

**Dear Simply Thanx,**

Right off the bat, let me say congratulations to finding a first-class new beau. But I must extend my thanks to you, young man.

My new year's resolution for 2003, was to send out thank you notes when appropriate. I had gotten out of the habit; I hadn't written a note for years. And recently, I had made a gift for a dear friend of mine, and when I received a thank you note via good, old-fashioned U.S. Mail, I have to admit, I was absolutely tickled pink. What a feeling it brought to my heart! I knew immediately I must resume this practice. And I did. After I had bought a pack of elegant blank cards and had written my expressions of gratitude for holiday gifts and popped them in the mailbox, in less than a week's time I received your letter. So, maybe there is something to the philosophy that "you reap what you sow."

And how delicious the reaping can be. Think of how much delight I shall bring to the receivers of a small bit of gratitude. I know I love to receive any and all appreciation. How life-affirming a small card and $.37 can be. So, keep up the graciousness! Do you hear what I'm telling you, darling?

Let me detail my thoughts on the matter of thank you's:

1. If someone has given you a gift, you must get in the habit of sending off a quick note in your best handwriting. Electronic mailings do not suffice. There is something almost titillating about a card in the mail. I can't explain why. It is a must. Even if the gift is tasteless, cheap or recycled, it must be acknowledged. And remember, timeliness is weighty.

2. If you have gone to a party, drop the hostess a little note. But if you want to really feel good about yourself and make the hostess feel special, bring a little hostess gift to the party, and then a note following is not necessary, but do send a note if you had an especially wonderful time.

Never go to a party empty-handed. My mother never let me attend an event without something, even if it was just a small bouquet or a single flower, even picked from our suburban garden. This one is important.

Also, don't be afraid to ask if there is something you can bring. And if the hostess says, "Nothing dear, just bring yourself," for God's sake, bring something. Anything. A little box of chocolates, some home-baked cookies or a bottle of something delicious (like a good bourbon). And a related bit, if the hostess does request something, do not hem and haw. Bring it.

3. Now, as the hostess, you have quite a job if you care to do things right. You must send your appreciation to your company, especially if they have brought the aforementioned hostess gift. And, also to the guests who may have helped out or clinched the success of the gathering with witty repartee and good cheer. Something like, "Dear Gabe, what a charmer you are! Thanks for coming last night. You made my night so special."

4. If a gentleman caller has delivered the goods (so to speak), a note is always nice. In fact, I have a friend of the lady-of-the-evening type business, and when I suggested that she send out thank you notes to her "clients," her business absolutely blossomed. It is important to make people feel special, and in her case, what better way than to jot down a little note declaring the prowess of the john to make him want to come back. Brilliant idea on my part, I must admit. Something like, "Dear John, Wow. All I can say is wow. Thanks for coming last night. You made my night so special."

5. If someone has touched you in a special way, it is imperative you let them know so. It makes no difference what they have done; if it has moved you, given them a "shout out" on an elegant slice of stationary or carefully chosen cardstock.

The beauty of thank you cards is two-fold: it raises the esteem of the receiver through appreciation of another and raises the esteem of the sender by encouraging the receiver to repeat the good deed and by knowing you have done the right thing. So, go to the stationers and purchase a supply, practice your penmanship and start spreading gratitude with graciousness. Do you hear what I'm telling you, darling?

**Love, Lam**

P.S. Simply Thanx: You seem like a charming, genial man, and just to let you know, if things don't work out, my gay son Sam is single.

---

*Got a question for Lam? Write to Lam Medallion c/o* Family & Friends, *P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, or, if you wish, email your question to FamilyMag@aol.com and use "Ask Lam" in the subject line. Lam's column is meant for entertainment purposes only.*

**Got news about your organization?**

**Email it to FamilyMag@aol.com**

# Love movies? Visit IMAX Film Festival in February

The Fourth Annual Memphis IMAX Film Festival is set for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, now through Feb. 17, at the Union Planters IMAX Theatre located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. Six films are offered.

*Michael Jordan at the Max* tracks one of basketball's greats during his last three months with the Chicago Bulls. Special effects and amazing shots, combined with up-close, personal views of Jordan's life off-court reveal a "real-life hero," in the words of Bulls coach Phil Jackson.

*Dolphins* takes the audience under the ocean's surface to experience a rare and close-up view into the world of some of the most graceful and extraordinary creatures on earth.

*Alaska: Spirit of the Wild* is a voyage into the last great frontier where nature enchants the eye with magnificent spectacles and where wildlife abounds, a journey to the land of the midnight sun and the Aurora Borealis.

*Cirque du Soleil Journey of Man* is a celebration of the human spirit that uses the unique artistry and original music of Cirque du Soleil to follow the stages of human development from birth to maturity.

*Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West* invites the audience along on the remarkable and perilous 8,000-mile journey undertaken by Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery 200 years ago as they searched for the fabled Northwest Passage.

*Space Station* takes the audience 220-miles above earth to join the men and women of NASA and 15 other nations who are working together to build mankind's first international space station.

Tickets are $7.25 for adults; $6.75 for seniors and $5.75 for children (ages 3-12). Combination tickets can be purchased for discount prices. For tickets, showtimes or other information, call (901) 320-6362.


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## Karaoke for kids at CMOM

Each Friday at 3:30 p.m., children can take to the stage at the Rising Stars Theatre at The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, where they can sing their favorite tunes Karaoke style. All ages are welcome. Admission to the museum is $6 for children (1-12) and seniors (62+), and $7 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to www.cmom.com.

## Cartoons characters to teach

"Sol & Company," set for Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. at the Sharpe Planetarium, located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, features cartoon characters Sol and his sidekick Astro who explore the nine planets that make up our solar system. Admission is $4.25 for adults and $3.75 for seniors and children (ages 3-12). For more information or reservations, call (901) 320-6362.

## Stories of history to be told

Children can learn about black history during story time at The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 1:30 p.m. Admission to the museum is $6 for children (1-12) and seniors (62+), and $7 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to www.cmom.com.

## MSO joins Platypus Theatre

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra will perform "Rhythm In Your Rubbish" with the Platypus Theatre on Sunday, March 2, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cannon Center, located at 255 North Main Street at Poplar Avenue. "Rhythm In Your Rubbish" follows two tramps who wander into a junkyard. As they settle down for the night, they discover music lurking in unexpected places. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 the day of the concert. To order tickets, call the MSO Box Office at (901) 324-3627 or Ticketmaster at (901) 525-1515 or visit any Ticketmaster location.

## Yarn-spinning at POTS

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, presents a time of adventure for children as they hear the stories of different places and times during its Saturday Morning Matinee Series. On Saturday, Feb. 1, Michael J. Vails guides the audience through an African jungle, introduces them to a German ghost and visits a city in France. On Saturday, Feb. 8, Bill Jones will share stories about growing up in a small town in Alabama in the 1950s and on Saturday, Feb. 15, Annie McDaniel returns with her tales and wisdom about growing up on a Mississippi River riverboat. All shows begin at 10:30 a.m. and admission is Pay-What-You-Can. For more information, call (901) 726-4656.

## Kids to share hopes with others with UNICEF cards

Children throughout the U.S. are being encouraged to share their hopes for children around the world for the 12th annual Pier 1/UNICEF Greeting Card Contest, which begins on March 1, 2003. "Children's Dreams of Peace" is the theme for the second consecutive year, based on the enormous response to the 2002 contest. Submissions will be accepted throughout March and the deadline is April 11, 2003.

Blossoming artists, ages 13 and under, are invited to submit greeting card designs. A winner will be chosen from each of two categories: ages eight to 13 and ages seven and under. Two grand-prize winners will be chosen: their designs will be reprinted as UNICEF cards and sold nationwide at Pier 1 Imports stores and online at www.pier1.com beginning September 2003. The two grand prize winners also will win a trip to New York City and $500 cash.

"We hope that in addition to raising needed funds, the annual Pier 1/UNICEF greeting card contest introduces children to an important tool in life – social responsibility," said Charles J. Lyons, president of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. "The contest is not only fun and creative, but it also is a way for UNICEF to help children around the world since the sales of these cards bring in millions of dollars."

Entries must be hand-drawn and received at the home office of Pier 1 Imports by April 11, 2003. The entry forms are available at Pier 1 stores nationwide and also at www.pier1.com or www.unicefusa.org starting March 1. For Pier 1 store locations or for further contest information, call (800) 245-4595.

The largest retailer of UNICEF greeting cards, Pier 1 has raised more than $15 million from the sale of the cards since 1985, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. This year's holiday cards will be sold at Pier 1 Imports stores and online at www.pier1.com beginning in September.

Funds from the sale of cards support UNICEF programs that provide lifesaving medicines, vaccines, nutritious foods, primary education, clean water and sanitation and emergency relief for millions of children and women in more than 160 countries and territories.

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# Dog talks about getting a new leash on life

Hello there, I'm a Llaso Apso, although that's a little hard to tell from my "before" picture.

I used to live on the streets of Memphis, that is until one day the dog catcher got his hands on me and took me to "the big house," aka The Memphis Animal Shelter. Once there, I was put into a cage to wait, although I didn't know what for at the time because if they were waiting for my owners to claim me I was gonna be outta luck. I hadn't had an owner in a long time.

Then, a nice woman and her son came and saw me. They read my card. But, after a few minutes they left. Then, a few days later, the woman came to see me again, this time with another woman. They took me out of my cage and talked to me, but again I was returned to my cage.

About an hour later, the two women came back to my cage and took me out again, this time for good. I went to see someone they called a "vet," and I had all my hair shaved off, had surgery, a bunch of shots and a blood test. They said I had something called "heart worms."

After my visit to the vet, the two women took me to their home where they have two more dogs (one looks like me) and a cat. The boy was there, too. Now, I have food everyday, water, a warm bed and lots of room to play. I really love to have my head and ears rubbed, but sometimes I still feel protective of my food, water, bed and toys. And, they said I will have to take lots of medicine to get well, but that's okay.

It's great to have a family. I hope my friends at the big house get one, too, real soon.

*(Editor's Note: For a nominal fee, The Memphis Animal Shelter has a wide variety of dogs and cats ready for adoption, as does the Memphis Humane Society. The House of Mews on Cooper has a plethora of feline friends also looking for good homes.)*

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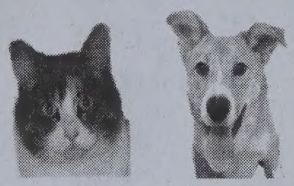

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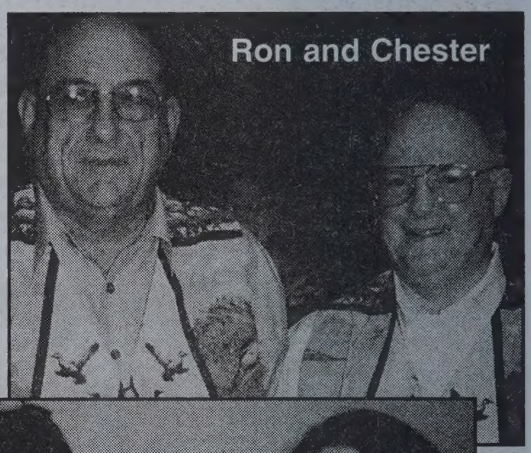
Vicki and Anne

Dixie, left, and Jan enjoy cuttin' a rug.

Gwen, Gail and Kathleen



Ron and Chester

Leigh and MO

Alison, Edie, Ivan and Audrey

Michael and Anita Cocktail

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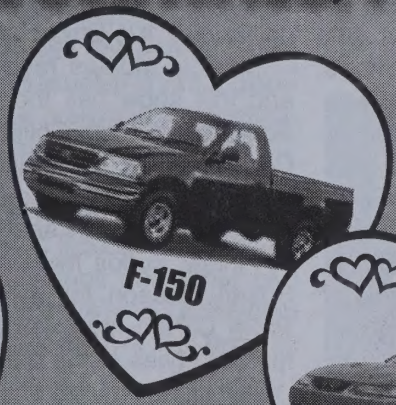

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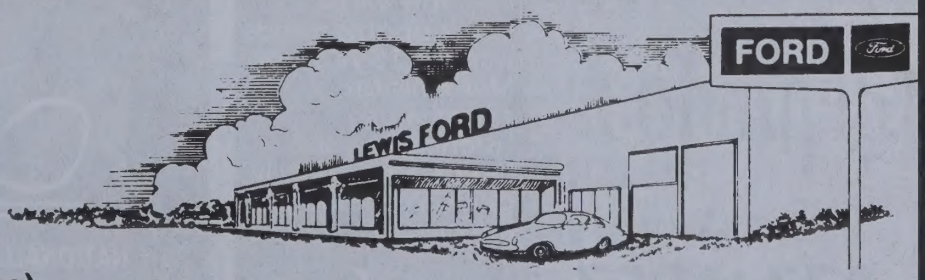


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## From The Front Row by Kevin Shaw

I stood in line to pick up my opening night tickets to see *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* at Circuit Playhouse about 30 minutes before the show was to begin and I noticed something rather odd. The line to buy tickets was quite short and the lobby was virtually empty. How could this be?

Wasn't this the show that had been brought back multiple times due to its enormous success? Where was everybody? As it turns out, they were already in their seats waiting for the show to begin! That's right, a full half-hour before the curtain, the show was completely sold out and almost every seat had been filled in anticipation of witnessing the tale of Patsy Cline's climb to stardom, multiple successes, and finally, her premature death.

Revived for the third time (Can anyone say, "Third time's a charm?"), a favorite of Memphis audiences, Carla McDonald has finally stepped into the role of the gutsy country music legend and made this part her own. Not only has McDonald captured that incredible vocal sound of Patsy through music, she even talks like her. Whether she's singing "Walkin' After Midnight," "Crazy" or even the traditional "Amazing Grace," McDonald has left no stone upturned in bringing Cline's music and sound to The Circuit Playhouse.

Backed by the Jordanaires, played by Ken Fleshman, Jason Cooper, Michael A. Ingersoll and Drew Stark, McDonald's Patsy sounds even better. In fact, their separate rendition of "First Day in Heaven," almost brought the opening night audience to its feet.

The narrator of the story, played by Michael Paul Duggan, also provides much of the comic relief. As Little Big Man, the WINC disc jockey who "spins" the tunes, as well as the life story of Patsy Cline, Duggan is a sheer delight. His DJ character magnifies the love America felt, not only for Patsy's music, but also for her as a person. His alter ego's portrayals of the stand-up comics at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry also are right on the money. Although the jokes are as "corny as the day is long," it is almost impossible to control your laughter.

Musical tributes require authentic, talented musicians and this show has them. The band, consisting of Ernie Scarbrough, Mark Collins, Eric Lewis, Chris Rutledge and Chris Vickers, not only sounds great, but also lets its members shine with solos that had the audience clapping and stomping in its seats.

Finally, kudos must go out to Rebecca Y. Powell and Susan Neason for their outstanding costume designs. Patsy Cline's multiple outfits authentically re-created the fashion styles of the era.

It is clear why this show continues to be revived. People love not only the story, but also the music of Patsy Cline. So, buy those tickets fast and sit in those seats even faster.

*A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* runs at The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, now through Feb. 16. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Also, performances are set for Sundays, Feb. 2, 9 and 16, at 7 p.m. Tickets are $22 for adults; $18 for seniors; $16 for students and military personnel, and $12 for children.

For more information or reservations, call The Circuit Playhouse Box Office at (901) 726-4656 or visit its website at www.playhouseonthesquare.org.


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## Lambda Legal

from page 20

• The Libertarian Institute for Justice, saying that sodomy laws give the government inappropriate and unconstitutional power to invade people's privacy.

• The Republican Unity Coalition, arguing that it's improper for a state to use a law to express its disapproval of gay people.

• More than two dozen religious groups, explaining that even though some denominations don't approve of or support homosexuality, they and the majority of religions all oppose laws criminalizing private, consensual intimacy between lesbian or gay couples.

• The National Association of Social Workers (along with its Texas state branch), the American Psychological Association and other respected health and mental health groups, telling the court that homosexuality is not a disorder and that sodomy laws reinforce prejudice, discrimination and violence against lesbian and gay people.

• The Mexican-American Legal Defense & Education Fund, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund, the Asian-American Legal Defense & Education Fund and more than two dozen gay rights groups and other civil rights organizations, explaining that there's no justification for branding gay people as deviant with laws like Texas's.

• Law scholars, historians, international human rights experts, public health authorities and others, telling the court that sodomy laws are unconstitutional and harm gay people in many ways.

"Some of the most diverse and respected voices in this country are lining up to tell the Supreme Court that these laws are contrary to American values," Harlow said. "Conservative groups are coming forward to say that the government has no business in people's bedrooms. Mainstream civil rights organizations are speaking out about the inequalities and blatant discrimination these laws create. And our nation's leading health advocates are unequivocally saying that these laws don't serve any public interest."

For more information, go online to lambdalegal.org.

*(Editor's Note: See Equality Mississippi's comments on this issue on page 23.)*

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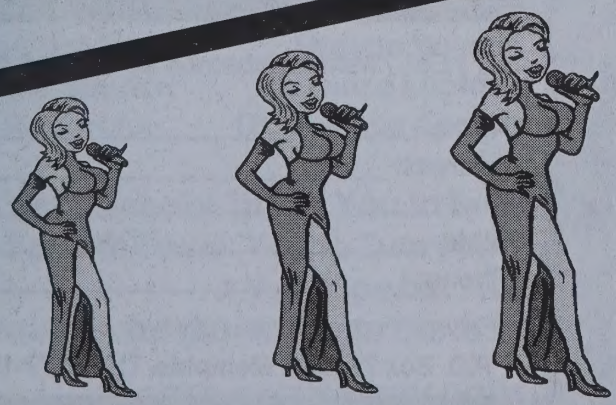

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## Sam's Town lines up concerts

Sam's Town Tunica is bringing singer-songwriter Erykah Badu to the stage of its River Palace Entertainment Center, located inside the casino, on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m. Tickets are $34 and $44 for this show. Sam's Town also is bringing popular Latin sensation Julio Iglesias to its River Palace stage on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. Tickets are $35 and $45 for this show. Tickets are available at the River Palace Entertainment Box Office; at any TicketMaster location; by calling Sam's Town at (800) 456-0711 or Ticketmaster at (901) 525-1515, or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

## Museum to display metalworks

"Transformation 3: Contemporary Works in Jewelry and Small Metals" is on exhibit at the National Ornamental Metal Museum, 374 Metal Museum Dr., Feb. 25 through April 27. The 36 pieces on exhibit highlight a variety of techniques and forms – jewelry, vessels and sculptural pieces – all addressing the theme of transformation. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and from noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are $4 for adults, $3 for seniors (62+) and $2 for students. For more information, call (901) 774-6380 or go online to www.metalmuseum.org.

## Engage senses at planetarium

Experience the "delicate, thunderous sounds" of Pink Floyd at "LaserRock: Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon" now through March 8 at the Sharpe Planetarium located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. This show features some of the best Pink Floyd tunes choreographed with laser lights, slides and lighting effects on the Planetarium's domed starfield. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 and 10 p.m. Tickets, which are $6.25 each, are available by calling (901) 320-6362.

## Integrity to host conductor

Integrity Memphis will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second and Adams. A short worship service, led by Rev. Tim Meadows of Holy Trinity Community Church, will be followed by dinner. The evening's program, featuring Vince Danner, associate conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony Orchestra, begins at 7:45 p.m. For more information, go online to www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html.

## Film links Memphis, its river

A new documentary, airing on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m., on WKNO-Channel 10, will examine what Memphis would be like without the Mississippi River. Narrated by Memphian Gene Katz, *Memphis on the Plain* looks at the river's impact on the businesses, arts, tourism and character of the city.

## MGLCC to meet in building

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center will hold its first townhall meeting in its new building, located at 892 South Cooper, on Sunday, March 2. The final ratification vote for Len Piechowski as president of MGLCC and the first ratification vote for Kevin Dugan as member-at-large, will take place at this meeting, as well as a final reading of MGLCC by-law changes. For meeting time or more information call Len at (901) 857-8523.

## Giuliani to visit Davis-Kidd

Davis-Kidd Booksellers, located at 387 Perkins Extended in the Laurelwood shopping center, welcomes former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who will sign copies of his new book *Leadership* (Talk Miramax Books, 2002, $25.95) on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at noon. Line tickets are presently available with purchase of *Leadership*. Only copies purchased at Davis-Kidd Booksellers will be signed.


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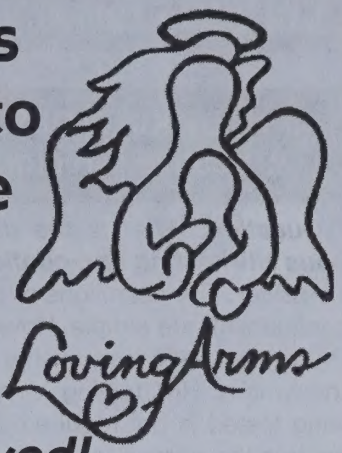
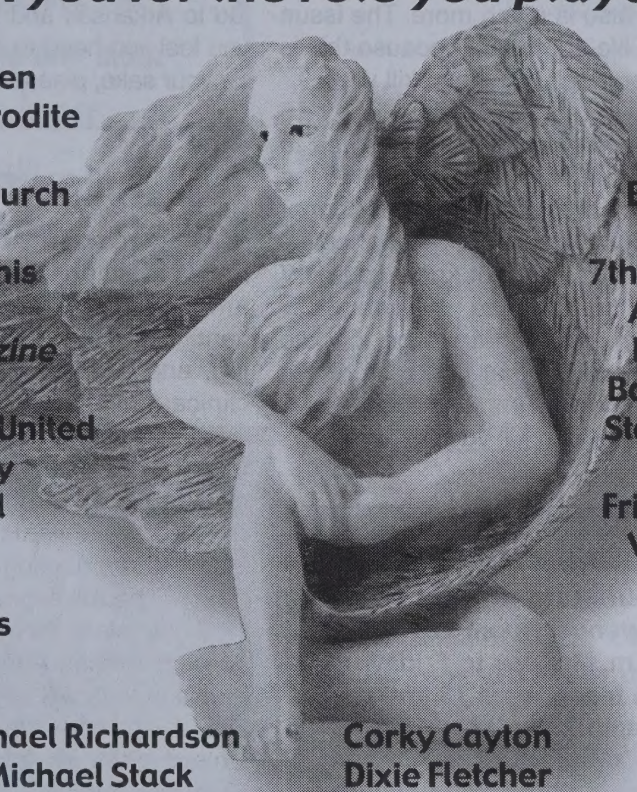
# The Loving Arms Staff and Families would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make a Christmas miracle come true.




***The Children all had a very blessed Christmas. Thank you for the role you played!***



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Integrity Memphis
Living Word Christian Church
Calvary Episcopal
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*Family & Friends Magazine*
The Orpheum
Mystic Krewe of Memphis United
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Hope House
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Yosemite Sam's
Bergeron Flowers
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James Knight
Dr. Shawn Hayden
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Michael Richardson
Michael Stack
Stephen Swords
Jon Whitby
Sandy McGee
Sandra Bray
Sharon Wray
Bernard Lapides
Dr. Melissa Appleton

Corky Cayton
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Nancy Bergeron
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Dr. Susan Brewer
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**A Very Special Thank You to Everyone who delivered toys to the kids .....**
**A Very Special Thank You to Everyone who donated toys and money for the kids ....**
**A Very Special Thank You to Auction Donors**
**A special thank you to Chris Sinnock ... for being the angel she is ....**

***Please excuse any omissions, we are grateful to all ...***

# HIV/AIDS Education 101

By KIM MOSS, guest writer
Executive Director, Friends For Life

***Question: What is the difference between anonymous HIV testing and confidential HIV testing?***

Answer: The definitions of the words "anonymous" and "confidential" are simple. However, the simplicity changes when you place the words "HIV testing" after them. Anonymous HIV testing is when the individual's name being tested is not required whereas confidential testing requires the person to give his/her name. This is definitely an issue of privacy, but it also is much more. The issue of HIV testing is an issue of life and death because this is one situation where what you don't know can kill you.

From the perspective of a person living with HIV for 16 years and one who has provided supportive services to persons with the disease for the same length of time, the main issue is knowing one's HIV status and, the sooner the better. If you know your status, you can seek medical intervention as appropriate. If you do not know your HIV status and you have HIV, the disease will eventually destroy your immune system and then it will be too late because there are no medications that can restore the immune system to health. Without an immune system, you are susceptible to illnesses that can kill you.

## HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES & INFORMATION

**Memphis & Shelby County Health Department**
**814 Jefferson Avenue, Room 221**
**7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday to Friday**
**Testing conducted on teens, ages 13 and up, without parental consent.**
**HIV Test Cost: FREE**
**For more information, call (901) 544-6808**

**Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood**
**1407 Union Avenue, Third Floor**
**8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday**
**8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday**
**FREE OraSure testing for ages 13-24**
**Over age 24: $35 blood test • $40 OraSure**
**For more information, call (901) 544-6808**

**Friends For Life & The Positive Living Center**
**1384 Madison Avenue / 1000 South Cooper**
**Call Friends For Life for dates and times**
**FREE OraSure • appointments may be required**
**For more information, call (901) 272-0855**

Agencies provide HIV counseling and testing at various health fairs and community events throughout the year.

With the knowledge of one's status, you can make informed decisions such as, if HIV positive, when to begin medication. You also can make sure you don't engage in behaviors that might infect others. If HIV negative, you can continue to be safe and remain that way.

Confidential HIV testing is the law in Tennessee. However, it is possible in Arkansas to have an anonymous HIV test. Privacy is an important right that we must always seek to protect. I encourage anyone who has had unsafe sex in the past 20 years to be tested to learn your HIV status. Then, make informed decisions about the direction of the rest of your life. Go to Arkansas and be tested anonymously if that is what you feel you need to do in order to protect your privacy. But, for your sake, please be tested somewhere.

## AIDS News in Brief

• According to "AIDS Treatment News," a new government website has gone online at www.aidsinfo.nih.gov and provides official guidelines for treatment and prevention of HIV; guidelines for HIV testing and counseling, and a database of both government and industry clinical trails.

• On the Jan. 13 NPR's "All Things Considered" show, Michael Alvear, a nationally-syndicated sex advice columnist, spoke about the "culture of politeness and indirectness" of inhabitants of the Southern United States as being a contributing factor to the spread of HIV in that region. The full segment is available online in RealPlayer.

•*Long Island Newsday* reported on Jan. 17 that a coalition of African-American print, broadcast and online media outlets will begin a 'massive' campaign in February aimed at increasing HIV/AIDS awareness within the United States's black communities. The "Drumbeat Project" campaign will include feature stories on AIDS in nine leading magazines; an eight-part series covering topics, such as vaccines, testing, men who have sex with men, treatment and AIDS in prisons, that will appear in 200 newspapers; HIV/AIDS public service advertisements on the American Urban Radio Network; television programs on the Black Entertainment Network, and a website, www.blackaids.org.

• On. Jan. 16, the FDA proposed a new label for over-the-counter contraceptives that contain the spermicide nonoxynol-9, warning that the substance does not protect against HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases and may increase the risk of HIV and STD transmission.

• The AP/*Arizona Daily Star* reported on Jan. 21, that former NBA star Magic Johnson is appearing in a GlaxoSmithKline advertising campaign targeting urban blacks and promoting the company's antiretrovial drug, Combivir.

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Valentine's roses are always red
No roses at all can make one blue.
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and we'll send them
a card from us for you!

*People pictured here are not necessarily HIV-positive*

**Honor your loved one by making a gift to Friends For Life for Valentine's Day. We will send them a special Valentine's Day greeting telling them of your generosity. *Memorials also accepted.***
**Please print:**

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**Address:** _____
**City** _____ **State** __ **Zip** _____

**Please send acknowledgement of my gift to:**
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**Make your gift today or call (901) 272-0855 to charge your gift.**

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# REMEMBER THE ONE YOU LOVE

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# Music of Johnny Mercer to highlight FFL concert

It's time for the annual Friends For Life Fabulous February Concert. This year, the music of legendary songwriter Johnny Mercer will be showcased in "The Music of Johnny Mercer ... A Night of Wine & Roses." The event will take place on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the New Daisy Theatre, 330 Beale Street.

During his lifetime, Mercer received four Academy Awards and several Oscars. Mercer penned the lyrics and/or music for approximately 1,500 songs, including "Moon River," "Days of Wine and Roses," "Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe" and "In The Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening." Many of Mercer's songs are standards in the jazz world.

Performing the works of Mercer will be Gary Jones, Jackie Johnson, Chris Hudson, Doug Saleeby, Reni Simon, Holly Shelton, the 18-piece Memphis Jazz Orchestra and special guest Kallen Esperian. WMC-TV Channel 5's news anchor Kym Clark will serve as the hostess for the concert.

Friends For Life's Fabulous February Concerts, a fundraiser for Friends For Life Corporation, began in 1998, with a tribute to Billie Holiday. The following years saw tributes to Frank Sinatra (1999), Judy Garland (2000), Ella Fitzgerald (2001) and "... Songs That Made The Cities Famous" (2002).

Tickets range in price from $35 to $250 per person. For reservations, call Friends For Life at (901) 272-0855 or, after hours, call Butch Valentine at (901) 606-3316.

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# It's time to 'Cowboy Up'

The Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) is cowboying up for The Cowtown Rodeo, set for March 28 to 30, at the W. R. Watt Arena at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Gay Rodeo Virgins" are encouraged to attend. The Cowtown Rodeo includes 13 events, some found in traditional rodeos, some are only run at gay rodeos. Besides the rodeo action, you will find dancing, shopping, parties and events galore.

TGRA is celebrating 20 years of rodeos and supporting local Texas charities this year. Since its inception in 1983, TGRA members (individual and commercial), royalty and the community have raised and donated more than $2 million to Texas charities – primarily, though not exclusively, AIDS-specific.

The objective of TGRA is to elevate the image of women and men in the sport field of rodeo.

Tickets are $14 in advance for one day or $25 in advance for two days or $15 at the gate (per day).

The host hotel for The Cowtown Rodeo is the Green Oaks Hotel, located at 6901 West Freeway (I-30) in Fort Worth. A special TGRA rate of $71 per room (1 to 4 persons) is available by calling (800) 433-2174.

For more information, go online to www.tgra.org, call (214) 346-2107 or email Karroll Parker, rodeo director, at cowtownrodeodirector@tgra.org.

# Meet Your Neighbor

## Michael Divoky

**Name:** Michael Divoky (on right)
**Place where you were born:** Omaha, Nebraska
**How long have you lived in Memphis:** 9 years
**Partnership status:** celebrated 6th year anniversary to Rodney Brown (aka Anita Cocktail) on Jan. 19, 2003
**Sexual orientation:** gay
**Occupation:** accountant
**Hobbies:** playing piano and organ, singing, cooking and spending time with my 3 poodles
**Favorite Food:** Mandarin Chinese
**Favorite Color:** blue
**Favorite Animal:** dog
**Favorite Singer:** Josh Groban
**Favorite Song:** "You're Still You," by Josh Groban
**Favorite Movie:** *Torch Song Trilogy* & *Some Like It Hot*
**Favorite Restaurant:** P.F. Changs
**Favorite Drink:** leaded coffee, any flavor
**Favorite Thing About Memphis:** it's where I met my sweetie!
**Least Favorite Thing About Memphis:** being in the Bible belt, discrimination of all sorts
**Finish this phrase:** My friends think I am "just a bottom, no seriously, the best friend I can be."

# 2003 MEMPHIS PRIDE AWARDS

A DECADE 10 of PRIDE

**BEST D.J.**

**BEST BARTENDER**

**BEST CLUB**

**BEST BAR**

**BEST RESTAURANT**

**BEST ENTERTAINER (individual)**

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (individual)**

**VOLUNTEERISM (group or organization)**

**GLBT-SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

**JOHN PROWETT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**DENNIS KIJOWSKI HORIZON AWARD (25 and under)**

***Please return this nomination ballot by mail to Memphis Pride Inc., P.O. Box 111265, Memphis, TN 38111-1265 no later than March 15, 2003, in order for your vote to connt!***

**Don't Forget ...**
**Memphis Pride Parade & Festival**
**Saturday, June 7, 2003**

# Straight Up, But Not Straight

BY J. SHANE WILSON, MS, NCC, LPCC

**Dear Straight Up,**

**My name is Max. I am 16 years old and I have been dating my 16-year old boyfriend for about a year. In the beginning, our relationship was great. His parents found out about us and sent him away. I waited for his return. Now that he has returned, he has changed.**

**The relationship is no longer how it used to be. Now when we go out, I find him staring and making comments about other guys. I have even found emails where he has asked guys to hook up with him, and he has met, that I know of, one guy. I confronted him about the emails and he said they were jokes between him and a friend.**

**I am confused and don't know what to do. I love him but do want a faithful partner. I am scared that I am going to lose him and I don't want that to happen. What can I do?**

Dear Teen,

First, you and he are both 16 years old. I know that we all want those fairytale romances and first loves to be the last, but relationships, especially gay ones, rarely last from age 16 till death. I know you think you love him, but the truth is, chances are slim that this is the person you will spend the rest of your life with.

Don't be blindsided by the fairytale, and look past reality, which is staring you in the eyes. He is either cheating on you or wants to. Also, at this young age, many gay guys feel the need to sow their wild oats, if you know what I mean.

I would just cut my losses, cry my tears and move on. At the very least, sit him down and tell him that you are not happy with your relationship as it stands. This will be a great communication experience for the real jerks you will meet in the years to come.

At any rate, I sense this situation is no good! Life without your present lover seems impossible, I know, but trust me, life goes on!

---

*J. Shane Wilson has a master's degree in the counseling field from The University of Memphis. He presently is a Licensed Professional Counselor residing in Louisville, Ky. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the magazine. For serious problems, seek professional help. Send questions to* Family & Friends, *P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, or email them to FamilyMag@aol.com.*


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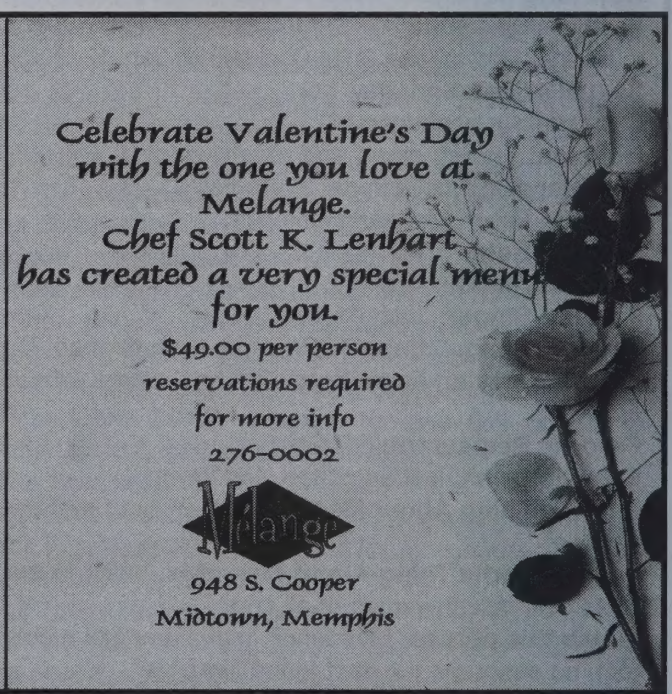
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6th Annual Fabulous February Concert
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# *42nd Street:* Come witness the revival

There's gonna be a revival going on in Memphis when the Broadway musical *42nd Street* takes The Orpheum stage by storm Tuesday, Feb. 11, through Sunday, Feb. 16.

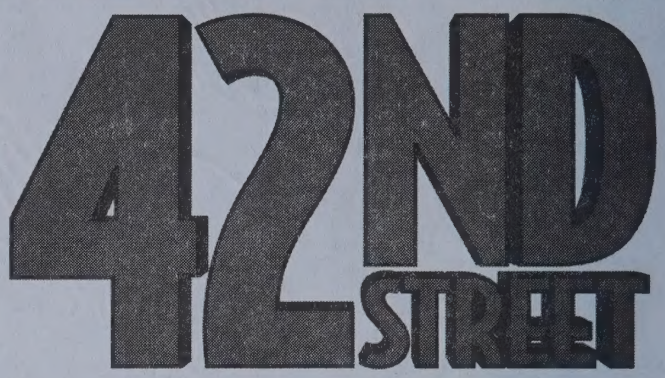
Based on the classic 1933 movie musical of the same name, *42nd Street* tells the story of a stary-eyed young actress named Peggy Sawyer who has come to audition for the new Julian Marsh musical that is about to open on Broadway. Unfortunately, Peggy can't seem to work up the nerve to walk through the stage door until it's too late – the auditions are over.

But, not to worry. Peggy soon catches the eye of the famous director, and when the chorus turns up one girl short, Peggy gets her big break.

However, Peggy can't seem to stay in the good graces of the show's aging leading lady, Dorothy Brock, and on opening night, another dancer accidentally pushes Peggy into Ms. Brock, who falls and breaks her ankle. The furious director fires Peggy on the spot.

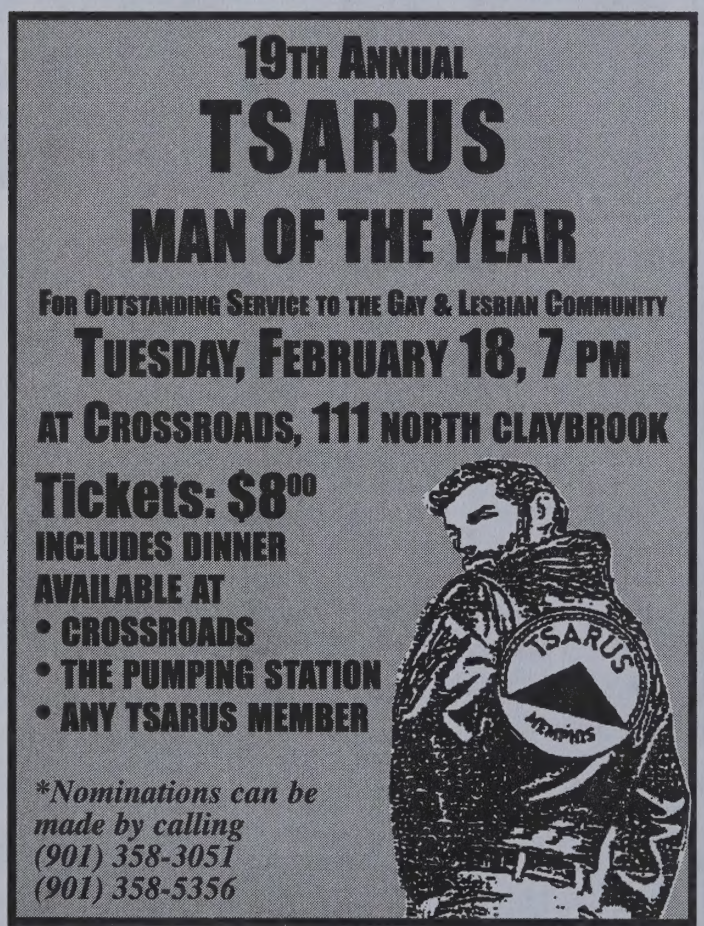
Discouraged and ready to give up all her dreams of becoming a star, Peggy packs her bags and heads for the train station, but fate has other plans and Peggy may turn out to be a star yet.

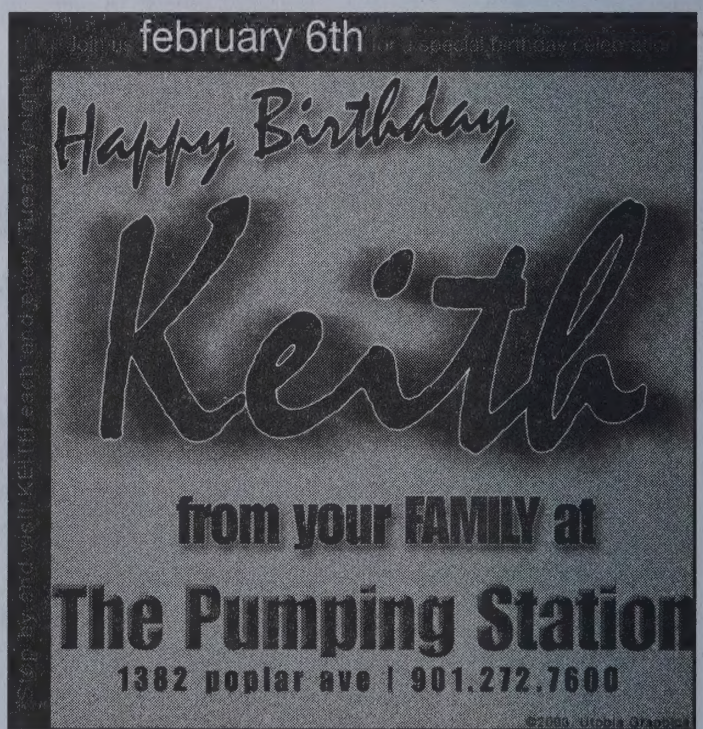
The award-winning *42nd Street* opened at the Winter Garden Theatre on Aug. 25, 1980, with a cast that featured Jerry Orbach (of "Law And Order" fame) as Julian, Lee Roy Reams as Billy, Wanda Richert as Peggy and Tammy Grimes as Dorothy. The original production, which moved to the Majestic Theatre on March 30, 1981, enjoyed a run of 3,486 performances.




Winner of a 2001 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical, *42nd Street* also was honored with a 2001 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Revival of a Musical and a 2001 Outer Critics Circle award.

Showtimes for *42nd Street* are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets, which range in price from $45 to $15, can be purchased at The Orpheum Box Office, the Orpheum counter at Davis-Kidd Booksellers and all TicketMaster locations; charged by phone by calling (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS, or online at www.orpheum-memphis.com.

# QUOTE / UNQUOTE BY REX WOCKNER

"NO LOITERING IN SEAGRAPES."

**— A new twist in the genre of police signs posted in gay cruising areas to discourage men from having sex amid the vegetation, seen at Miami's Haulover Beach Park nude beach, Dec. 10, 2002. Seagrapes are trees.**

"You see a lot of young actors who have no problem with it (being out). But they're young; they haven't lived through the shame! They've come up in another generation, where they pop out of the womb and into a parade! On a big float! I came from a very, very, you know, working class – this was not – it's this huge issue to overcome, just on a personal level."

**— Gay actor Nathan Lane to New York City's *Gay City News*, Jan. 3.**

"As one who has never really been in the closet, it doesn't seem like a big event to come out. It's the first time I ever spoke to media about it, but it certainly wasn't a secret. ... I'm a conservative, entrepreneur, investment-banking politician from rural Nova Scotia who drives a Volvo stationwagon and has two Nova Scotia duck-tolling retrievers; it's pretty hard to peg me as a radical."

**— Canadian Member of Parliament Scott Brison, Dec. 7, 2002. Canada has three other openly-gay federal MPs, Svend Robinson, Real Menard and Libby Davies.**

"I've learned a lot from my drag queen fans! They have hooked me up, they have helped me in makeup. My fashion, they showed me how to talk. ... They helped me out a lot, they don't even realize it."

**— Singer Toni Braxton to San Diego's *Buzz Magazine*, Dec. 12, 2002.**

"I have always been attracted to both men and women, even when I was a little girl. When I'd have little girls spend the night, I'd try and put the moves on them. I thought it was fantastic. And I liked boys, too. Later, I had crushes, but never a full-on relationship, with a woman because all the women I liked were straight and were, like, 'What is happening?'"

**— Megan Mullally, Karen on "Will & Grace," to *Out* magazine, January issue.**

"Gay left-wingers, many nursing hangovers from the '60s. ... spend most of their time arguing with each other, usually with the firm belief that unless you share their personal views, you are probably a registered sex offender or shortly will be. Even more intriguing than neocons."

**— *Advocate* columnist Bruce Vilanch in the Jan. 21 issue.**

"On paper, the story sounds promising: Middle-aged doctor finds love but stays deep in the closet, comes out during a clash with her homophobic boss, struggles with her own homophobia, endures humiliation, is outed by a lover, grows as a person, stands proud. On screen, though, the story was given scant time. Viewers had to connect the dots to figure out what was going on. NBC promos avoided mentions of the plot. And now that she's out, 'ER' doesn't know what to do with (Dr. Kerry) Weaver."

**— Columnist Rae Riebe writing in the Iowa daily newspaper *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Dec. 26, 2002.**

"She smelled so nice. You kiss an actor and you don't know what they are going to smell like. But you kiss a girl and she is going to smell good. And she's very soft. They're soft and they smell nice. Guys don't."

**— Actress Julianne Moore on kissing actress Toni Collette in the new film *The Hours*, to Britain's *Sunday Mirror*, Dec. 29, 2002.**

"In the mid-'30s, (veteran gay activist Harry Hay) had fallen in love with a charismatic young actor named Will Geer and followed him into the (Communist) party. But the man who would one day be known as television's Grandpa Walton just didn't understand his lover's growing obsession with homosexual organizing, and most of Harry's straight comrades were openly aghast at his shamelessness. They finally bullied him into choosing a bride, though neither she nor the children they adopted could turn the tide of Harry's desires."

**— Author Armistead Maupin writing in *The New York Times*, Dec. 29, 2002.**

"I have lost a quarter of a million dollars over the last six years and I just can't take it anymore. ... The impact of the chain bookstores has been large. They cherry-pick us. They get the benefit of the best sellers so they pick up the best sales."

**— Larry Lingle on his decision to close the legendary Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop in New York City's Greenwich Village, to *The New York Times*, Jan. 7.**

"Bill Clinton's (100 or so) gay appointees met with fierce resistance in the Senate, with none other than Trent Lott blocking Clinton's efforts to make openly gay James Hormel the ambassador to Luxembourg simply because he was gay. It's clearly a sign of progress that Republicans didn't do the same to their own president. But if it weren't for the advances that Clinton and the Democrats accomplished in the 1990s ... George W. Bush would have not even appointed these measly six individuals, and, if he had, the Republican party would not have stayed quiet about it."

**— Columnist Michelangelo Signorile, New York City's *Gay City News*, Jan. 3.**

---

*Quotes compiled by Rex Wockner, who has reported news for the gay press since 1985. His work has appeared in more than 200 gay publications. He has a B.A. in journalism from Drake University, started his career as a radio reporter and has written extensively for the mainstream media, as well.*

**Rod Stewart**
***It Had To Be You*** **(☆☆)**

What brilliant record executive came up with this idea? Let's get a singer who hasn't had a hit in a couple of decades to cover songs from a couple decades before that and sale a million copies. In all fairness, Rod Stewart is a great rock vocalist or at least he was once upon a time. And all the songs on this album are true American classics, like "The Way You Look Tonight," "Moonglow" and "It Had To Be You." But the combination of Stewart and the songs just refuses to mesh.

The beauty of the melodies will surely strike any listener coming upon these songs for the first time. And the band playing behind Stewart is truly brilliant. But once you hear Stewart tackle the classics of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald or even Frank Sinatra, Stewart's wheezy flat vocals just don't fit the bill. Where Stewart once rocked, he now flatly wheezes with a noise too nasal to do justice to the composers of these great American classics.

This album isn't without its charms. As I said before, the band is really tight and plays wonderfully. And Rod's vocals do have a certain sadness in them that do justice to some of the slower tunes like "It Had To Be You." But, even when Stewart sounds his best, he leaves me wishing for Frank, Ella, Billie or anyone with a wider vocal range.

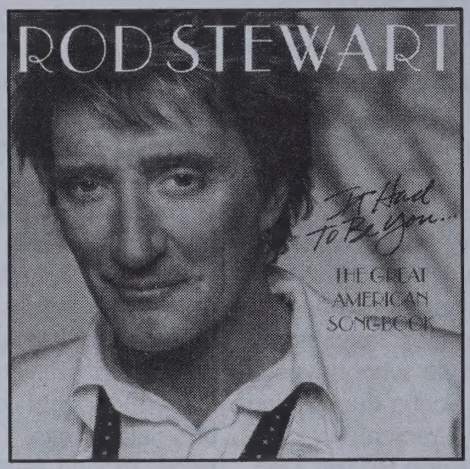
I recommend this album to only diehard Stewart fans who can't get enough of his voice. And, a note to all those people out their buying this album and the other similarly bad light adult jazz albums being made these days: Please stop buying them. Go buy some Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, Miles Davis. Don't be afraid to treat yourself to some really good jazz music, because, to be rather frank, folks, this record would be pure mush if it wasn't for the band continually making up for Stewart's lacking vocals. Also, go buy Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now*; it's one of the best jazz albums made in the last decade.

—> Highlights include "It Had To Be You" and "That's All."

••••

**TLC**
***3D*** **(☆☆☆)**

Reviewing the final album from a group is never a joyous task. But I am indeed stuck here with what will assuredly be the final offering from TLC pumping through my stereo. *3D* stands as less of a proper studio album from the talented trio and more of a final goodbye compilation for their fans.



With the tragic death of TLC's third member, Lisa "Left-Eye" Lopes, lurking in the back of my mind, I can't help but hear certain sadness in this record. *3D* isn't the fun joyous affair *Fanmail* was.

While I have to admit I haven't always been the greatest of TLC fans, I do have a deep admiration for the statements they made for women in songs like "Scrubs" and "Waterfalls." With that said, I was really disappointed with the song "Girl Talk," which seems to celebrate a female tendency to gossip. Other tracks, like "In Your Arms Tonight" and "Over Me," just lack any intensity or power of the old TLC.

The album was produced by Antonio "LA" Reid. Reid seems to be producing everyone these days and maybe it is his over exposure that has eroded the difference between the albums he has recently worked on. All of Reid's work is starting to sound the same, which isn't a good thing for TLC. This album is slow and at times seems to try for the more soulful sound of Pink's latest record and then on the next track tries to shift seamlessly into something more hip-hop oriented. It is this disjointed feel that lends this album to sounding more like a collection of studio out-takes and leftovers than a true studio album.

*3D* is the type of record that may cause many people to question its existence. Because, from the opening intro through to the last notes of "Give It To Me While It's Hot," the album fails to meet the expectations set by past TLC efforts. But the one obvious thing is that this album wasn't made for critics and the mass media at large; it was a labor of love by a grief-stricken group for its fans.

Sadly, this will most likely be the last of TLC, unless they try to replace Lopes, something I seriously doubt, but it isn't the best of TLC. For their

**See In The Mix, page 47**

## In The Mix

from page 46

last of TLC, unless they try to replace Lopes, something I seriously doubt, but it isn't the best of TLC. For their best work pickup *Fanmail* and *Crazy Sexy Cool*. For diehard fans, this album will be a must to complete their collection, but I doubt it will be as remembered or as played as the other two.

—> Highlights include "Good Love" and "Hey Hey Hey Hey."

••••

**V*I*R*G*O**

***Moderate Extremism* (☆☆ 1/2)**

My initial reaction to this record was, "what the f**k is this?" V*I*R*G*O is the ugly love child of cheesy '80s new wave, Nine Inch Nails and The Cure. Now, I should add here that all three of those things are among my favorite things, but alas, V*I*R*G*O is not.

The album opens with a lush instrumental bit that promises something worth sticking around for and then never delivers on that promise. His cover of the Billie Holiday classic "Strangefruit" is offensive enough to have this album forever banned from my stereo. But, if you skip past that track and ignore the not-so-great lyrics and vocals (he's no Trent Reznor), you find V*I*R*G*O has created a very danceable light version of industrial rock.

This album definitely doesn't have any mass appeal. It's a love-it or hate-it type of record and, to be totally honest, I don't love it. When V*I*R*G*O's press release compares his work to Nine Inch Nails, it is almost laugh-inducing. The densely-layered, musical inward journey that is Nine Inch Nails is decades beyond what V*I*R*G*O has created here. Think of V*I*R*G*O as Reznor's nerdy goth little brother who got his hands on some of his brother's musical equipment and started fooling around.

If *Moderate Extremism* didn't try so hard to be a deep goth record, it might actually have stumbled onto being a good record. In fact, V*I*R*G*O's slightly more dance floor accessible single, "Alpha Male," is better than anything on the record. Still, it isn't as good as buying some Nine Inch Nails or Skinny Puppy and enjoying dark industrial music at its best.

—> Highlights include "Alpha Male" and "Rent Boy."

# MGLCC to open new building, plans ribbon cutting event

The community is invited to a ribbon cutting for the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper Street, on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 3 p.m.

Mayor W. W. Herenton will honor the Memphis gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community with his presence as he cuts the ribbon to the new MGLCC building.

Afterwards, visitors can enjoy refreshments as they tour the new 1,300-square-foot facility.

A dedication of a Benefactor Hall and a dedication of the Vincent Astor Community Archives are scheduled for later in the year.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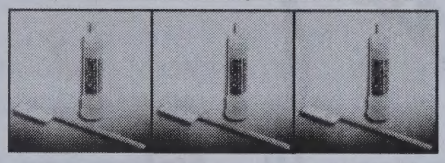

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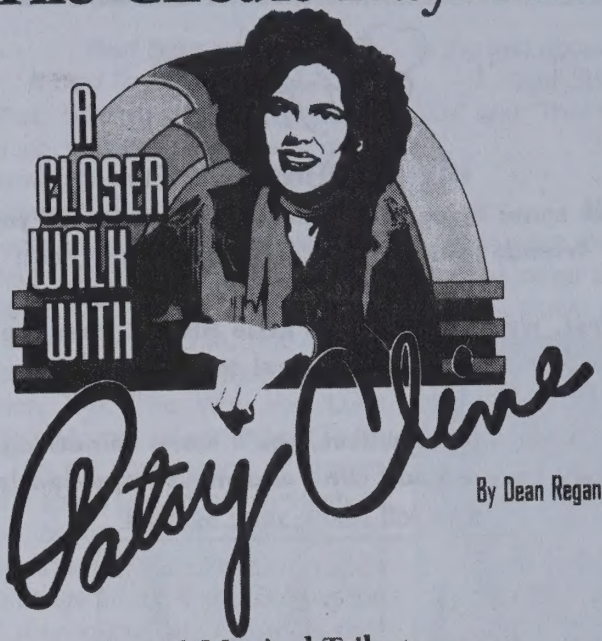


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# Ex-Gay Bianco sells stock, hopes to wed

By REX WOCKNER, contributing writer

The founder of the gay-press syndication company Q Syndicate, David Bianco, announced to staff and contributors Jan. 16, that he is selling his remaining share of the company to Rivendell Marketing because he is no longer gay.

Rivendell, which places ads in the gay press, bought most of Q Syndicate from Bianco in 2001.

Q Syndicate is the world's largest gay-press content provider, unless more column inches are filled by the Associated Press news wire service.

Bianco said he will continue to write his syndicated "Over The Rainbow" column in which he recently announced that, for religious reasons, he no longer has sex with men. Bianco is Jewish.

"Nobody asked me to leave (the company) because of my column," Bianco said in an interview. "But the fact that I no longer consider myself gay meant I was uncomfortable having gay journalism be my life's work.

"I believe that within a couple years, I'm probably going to be married with a growing family, God willing," he said.

In another recent column, Bianco denounced gays and lesbians who have babies, calling them "selfish" for purposefully depriving offspring of a mother or father.

Q Syndicate content, which appears in local gay and lesbian newspapers, includes Hastings Wyman's "Capital Letters," Romeo San Vicente's "Deep Inside Hollywood," Paula Martinac's "Lesbian Notions," Andrew Collins's "Out of Town," the history column "Past Out" and Simon Sheppard's "Sex Talk."

The company also provides the gay press with cartoons (A Couple of Guys and Bitter Girl), editorial cartoons, book reviews, crossword puzzles, movie reviews, horoscopes and word-search games.

Other major players in gay-press syndication include Alison Bechdel (Dykes To Watch Out For), Eric Orner (The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green) and Rex Wockner (International News, Quote Unquote, The Wockner Wire and breaking news stories). Several independent columnists – including Michael Alvear, Mubarak Dahir and Marc Acito – are syndicated on a somewhat smaller scale, as is D.C.-based news reporter Bob Roehr.

*(Editor's note: Rex Wockner briefly worked part-time as a Q Syndicate consultant several years ago.*

*Bianco also produced the Vice Versa Awards for Excellence in the Gay and Lesbian Press.* Family & Friends *was awarded Second Place, Division B Best Editorial for 1997-98 and Best New Publication for 1998-1999.)*

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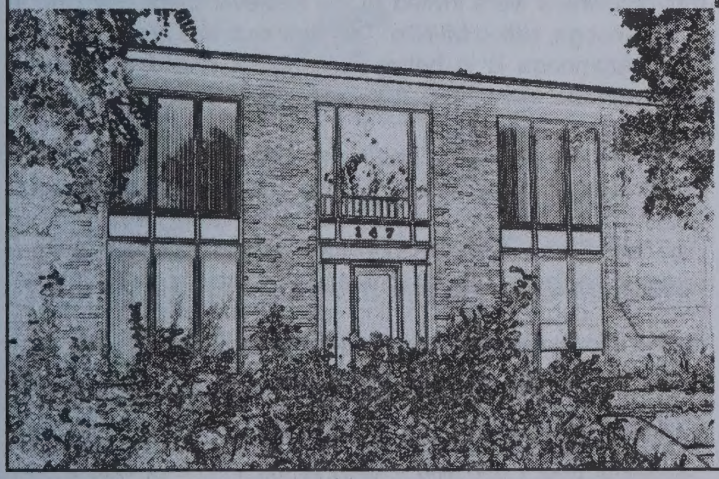
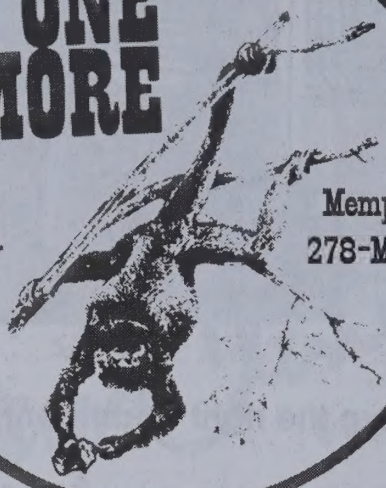



For more information, contact

Dane Barker
Brouwer Properties
901.650.1730

ONE MORE



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# What's The 'Tee' Ladybug?

BY ANTHONY HARDAWAY

January, the beginning of a new year. My first major event was the transition of my biological mother in body and spirit. You, the reader/village truly touched my heart with the love shown to me and my family. My mother and I had an opportunity to talk as a black same-gender-loving son/man to a heterosexual, loving mother/woman. So, as the church world would say it, "We got it together." She had stopped by the "Haven" on Dec. 28 and gave us, "the chil-ren," her blessings on the work that is being done in the black community.

I have learned two things about life since her transition. No one really dies – their spirit lives on in us each day, and we are only on this earth for a season of time. I believe our job is to be a blessing to ourselves and others each and every day. My mother belonged to God first, herself second and a mother and wife last.

My job now, in honoring her life, is to respect myself as a single black gay man of the South by living up to the lessons taught to me by her and God. So, allow me to share with you something she said she learned from coming to our past events in the black gay community,

"Hating and disliking people for whatever reason is like a cancer," she said, "it eats at the individual, hating from the inside out. Remove negative things, thoughts and feelings from your daily living and replace them with positive goals and outcomes. So LOVE and LIVE each day as if someone passed you a note from your Divine stating, 'Today is your last day in this life form.'" Rest in God's love, Ms. Abby ... Your baby ... Anthony.

Brothers United of Chattanooga, Tenn., did it again with their MLK Holiday Anniversary Extravaganza. Yearly, brothers from all over the nation pack out Chuck's Place on Saturday night to help celebrate with the chapter members of the network.

Sunday afternoon, Chattanooga Cares (the local agency) hosted a workshop at the Days Inn Hotel's conference room. The attendance was very good.

Sunday evening, the tea dance was in memory of one of our brothers named "Billy Boy." Brother Chris (the emcee) did an outstanding job with the show. The entertainers that performed lit the stage up with energy and fun. After the show, we and the out-of-towners were invited to the first-ever black gay club in Chattanooga, called Mi-Nite. This new club has great potential.

Chattanooga is in between Nashville and Knoxville and only an hour away from Hot-lanta. Y'all chil-ren better "work out" in Chatt-town.

As we celebrate love and history this month, take the time to send an old friend a card or pay a visit. And, for history sake, make it your business to learn about someone black and gay by reading a book, watching a video, listening to a CD by a gay artist, or going to talk to someone who has been "in the life" who you can learn something from. If you enjoy this newly-found knowledge, continue learning throughout the year.

Then, you can join in with me when all of God's "special" chil-ren – black/white, rich/poor, religious/non-religious – stand together at any gathering and wave with hands held high, shouting, (say it with me) "Happy pride, chil-ren, happy pride!"

# *Ain't Misbehavin'* running at Theatre Memphis

*Ain't Misbehavin', The Fat's Waller Musical Show* is on stage now through Feb. 16 at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, on the Lohrey Stage.

This warmhearted, high-energy, fast-moving, blockbuster musical thrilled Broadway audiences for more than 1,600 performances and won every award in sight, including the Tony Award for Best Musical (1978), the Drama Critics Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award and even a Grammy Award.

*Ain't Misbehavin'* is an extraordinary portrait of the explosively talented Thomas "Fats" Waller, a composer, piano-player and charismatic entertainer. His story is brought to life by this rollicking, swinging, finger-snapping revue. Waller rose to international fame during the Golden Age of the Cotton Club, honky-tonk dives along Lenox Avenue, rent parties, stride piano players and swing.

Although not quite a biography, *Ain't Misbehavin'* evokes the delightful humor and infectious energy of this American original as a cast of five struts, strums and sings the songs he made famous in a career that ranged from uptown clubs to downtown Tin Pan Alley to Hollywood and concert stages in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

One of the most popular and well-crafted revues of all time, the show is sometimes sassy, sometimes sultry, with moments of devastating beauty. It is simply unforgettable.

Bringing the show to life is director/choreographer Mitzi Hamilton and music director Andrew Bryan, the team that made TM's season opener *42nd Street* such a triumph.

The cast includes Tasha Gwin, Deneka Lewis, Keith Miller, Justin Tate and Melissa Van Pelt.

Showtimes for *Ain't Misbehavin'* are 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are $25 for adults and $15 for students with valid ID.

For tickets or more information, call the Theatre Memphis Box Office at (901) 682-8323.

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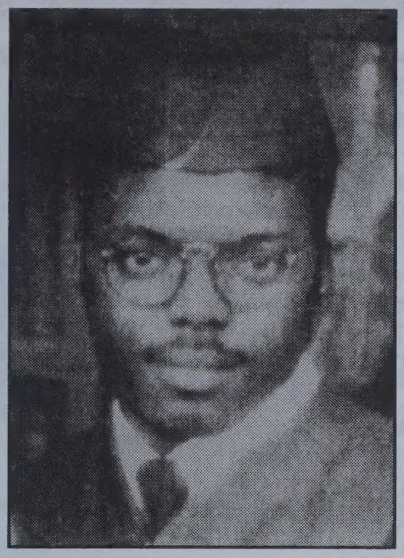
## ERIC LA VELL TREBLE



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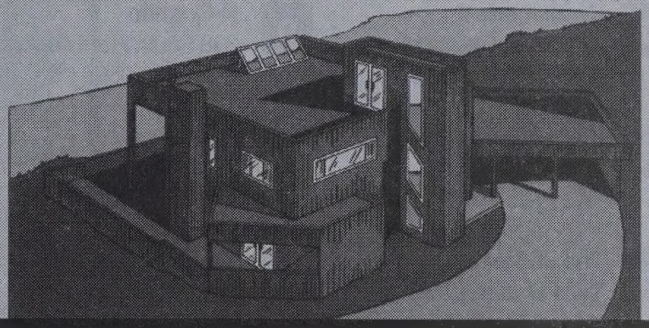

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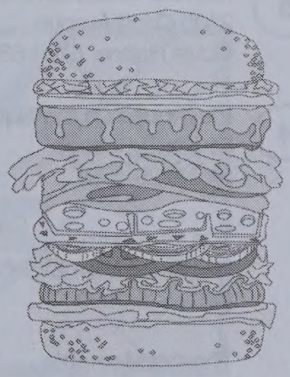

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5. **The Jungle**
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6. **Lorenz/Aftershock**
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7. **Madison Flame**
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8. **Metro Memphis**
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B. **Cafe Ole** - mexican
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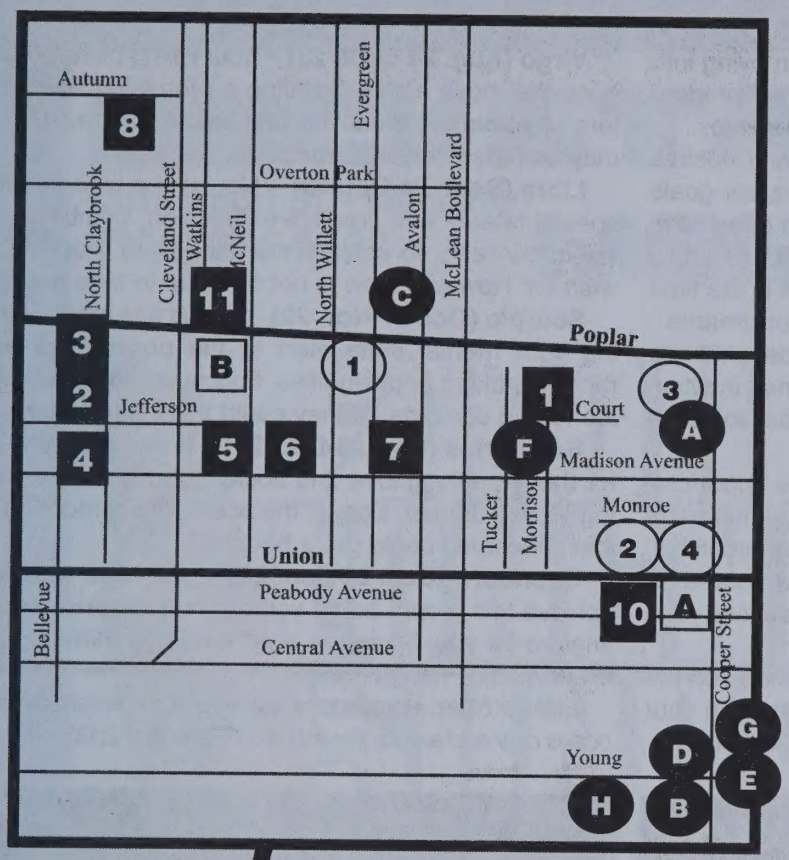
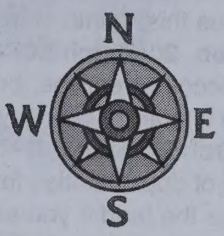
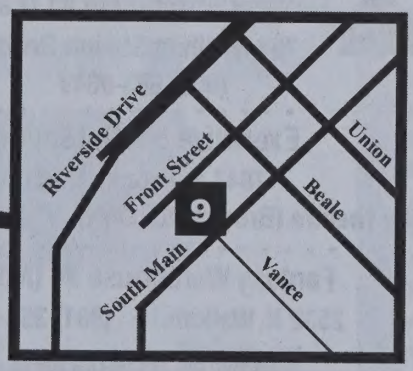
# Memphis Bar, Restaurant & Theater Guide




*Maps are not to scale; not all streets are shown.*



# Horoscopes

**Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)** – A new moon moving into your sign should bring with it a period of mental productivity. The focus this month should be on relationships.

**Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20)** – Your hopes and desires could soon become realities, but only if you review goals and eliminate obstacles in your way. Follow your heart now.

**Aries (March 21-April 20)** – Travel in your future could open a world of opportunities for you now. Now is the time for you to take the lead if you are to obtain your dreams.

**Taurus (April 21-May 21)** – Investment benefits are likely this month, but only if you listen to combined intuition and experienced knowledge. Security could be yours as the result of a real estate venture.

**Gemini (May 22-June 21)** – Look for positive opportunities in education and far away places as the Sun makes its move. Making wise investments now could prove profitable.

**Cancer (June 22-July 23)** – You may find yourself a real social butterfly this month. Singles may find real romance and positive relationships this month.

**Leo (July 24-Aug. 23)** – Now is the time to look on the bright side of things as Lucky Jupiter moves through your sign. Focus on matters concerning work and health.

**Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)** – Your ruling planet, Mercury, is on the move again signaling a promising time for matters of romance, creativity and social endeavors. Others may find themselves attracted to you now.

**Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)** – Now is the time to use your special talents and creative expression, combined with a will to succeed, to achieve the things you most hope and wish for. However, now is not the time to take short cuts.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** – Focus this month on keeping your mental state alert to the possibilities of new, money-making opportunities. Follow-up on old investment ideas and contacts as they could be needed now.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** – It's all good this month for those seeking love and social good times as your ruling planet, Jupiter, signals the possibility of meeting a new lover. Incomes could get a boost.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)** – You have to believe to achieve this month and if you do, nice surprises could be in store for you. Focus on a work-related matter.

*Editor's Note: Horoscopes are meant for entertainment purposes only and are for the month of February, 2003.*

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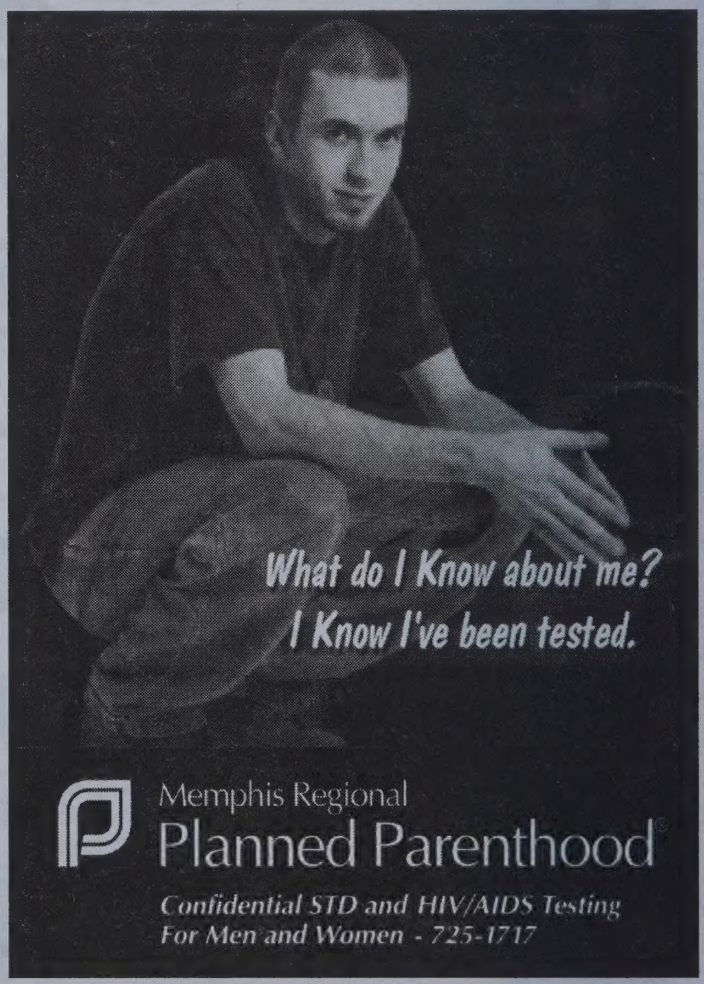
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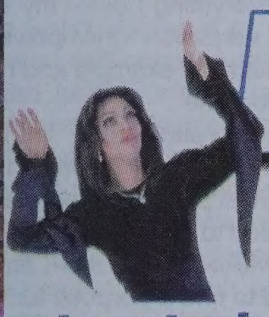

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# Black Gay History

from page 8

While at Harvard Law School, Boykin took a bold step when he filed a lawsuit against the school for discrimination, seeking more women of color and others of diversity on its teaching staff.

"I was learning about the law from Harvard and at the same time getting hands-on practice in the lawsuit against Harvard," Boykin said. "It was the best legal education I got..."

"I am writing and lecturing fulltime, visiting 20 to 25 colleges a year," Boykin said, explaining where he is presently on his career path. "Usually (I talk) about race and sexual orientation ... my life experience of being black and gay.

"I am also working on my memoir, tentatively titled *From Harvard to Harlem*," Boykin continued, "and writing other articles and columns. I also write a daily commentary on my website, www.keithboykin.com."

What would Boykin want the world to remember him for 50 years from now?

"For being passionate about making a difference in the world," Boykin said. "... My passion is the work I do and the ideas I believe in. It is far more important (to me) than material wealth..."

And what advice does Boykin offer to the next SGL generation?

"The best advice I can offer is to love yourself and don't let anybody else tell you not to...be it parent, teacher, friend or preacher," Boykin replied. "Don't let anyone get in the way of self-love."

**Dr. Rev. Shirlene Holmes**

**Shirlene Holmes**

Rev. Dr. Shirlene Holmes is an author, a playwright, an educator, a minister. She is considered a "trailblazer" in Black same-gender-loving (SGL) playwriting.

"I write all kinds of plays," Holmes told *Family & Friends* in a telephone interview. "In 1990, I wrote pride plays for African-American gays and lesbians, thus putting African-American gays and lesbians on stage. Their artistic work helped them to be seen more fully. I feel I've also done the same thing with women and marginalized and disenfranchised people. Theater is a vehicle for social change, I believe."

Holmes earned a B.A. in English from York College of the City University of New York; she also earned an M.F.A. in theater/playwriting, as well as a doctorate in speech from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She was a University Women of Distinction Winner-Doctoral Student in 1989, while at SIU.

She is presently an associate professor in the communications department at Georgia State University.

A Real Read of Chicago, Ill., took her play, *A Lady and a Woman*, to the stage. The production was nominated for a Chicago Black Theater Alliance Award in 1999, for original script and for Best Leading Actress (Elizabeth Shivers).

"I was very honored for them (A Real Read) taking on these risky works," Holmes said. "Many theater companies were afraid to stage them."

Another of her many plays, *Conversations with a Diva*, the oral history of an HIV-positive black man, also has been staged nationally.

Holmes, as she said, doesn't limit her subjects to just gays and lesbians. Presently, she is working on a play called *Three Daughters*, about a family with a white, an Asian and an African-American daughter.

"I am eclectic and don't (stick) to just one topic. I don't pigeon-hole. I am an artist and do as I am inspired ... writing about the issues of the day. ... I write in the way of black women before me. (I desire) my work to liberate someone to be proud, gay, woman, Christian, etc."

Holmes, ordained in 1999, also is a minister at Hillside Chapel and Truth Center in Atlanta.

"I battled cancer from 1994 through 2000," she said. "(Because of) that journey, when I minister to others, I speak from experience, not (just) what I think, I consider myself a light of the world liberating and serving humanity....serving all people.

"I want to be remembered for a life of dedication," Holmes said when asked what she would want to be remember for 50 years from now. "... dedicated first to the spirit and to humanity ... (Through) everything I did – my artistic work, work in the ministry and education – I empowered (others) to live their divinity ... I taught by example and I honored the ancestors that came before me.

"Until they develop a relationship with spirit and humankind, they will be constantly in pain," Holmes said when asked what wisdom she would offer to a young SGL man or woman. "They need to have spirituality and a sense of history ... know who walked before them and honor that with their life. They need to find a purpose for their life.

"Even if they love the recreation of life and expression of their sexuality," Holmes continued, "someone has to write the book, be the teacher, etc. They need to take up their place in serving humanity. ... they have a debt to the generations coming after them. They need to fully define a culture and a history.

"There is a lot of talent and inspiration and dreamers and people with aspirations," Holmes concluded. "I encourage them to go on and become entrepreneurs, go on into the ministry, and not live timidly but live boldly."

**Rainey Cheeks**

**Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks**

Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks is one of the pioneers of churches targeting the

**See Black Gay History, page 59**

## Black Gay History

from page 58

African-American gay and lesbian community. He also founded the Washington, D.C.-based HIV/AIDS agency Us Helping Us: People Into Living (UHU).

Cheeks, 50, born and raised in Washington, D.C., continues on a life journey of many paths. Before his ecclesiastical journey, Cheeks studied martial arts for 30 years, reaching the Top 10 list of marital artists in the '70s and '80s, Cheeks traveled the world, earning world-championships along the way.

"I am a master teacher," Cheeks told *Family & Friends* in a telephone interview." Although Cheeks no longer competes, he still conducts martial arts workshops on occasion.

A second path led Cheeks into the fast-paced world of clubs as manager of the legendary Washington, D.C., club, the Clubhouse. Many a celebrity entertained at the Clubhouse, including Patti LaBelle, Martha Wash and Nona Hendryx. As the manager of the club, by 1985, Cheeks realized far too many people were falling victim to a new disease, AIDS.

In 1985, Cheeks formed Us Helping Us: People Into Living (UHU), an organization designed to "take care of our own," through holistic living and positive thinking. Although The Clubhouse closed its doors in 1990, UHU continues today under the executive direction of Ron Simmons. Cheeks has held emeritus status since 1993.

"My ministry started 21 years ago," Cheeks said. "I was ordained in 1982. At that time I was doing mostly street outreach, founding Us Helping Us: People Into Living in 1985. ... The real beginning of my ministry was doing AIDS work, education and outreach (as part of UHU).

"Carl Bean in California asked me to start a Unity Fellowship Church in Washington, D.C., in 1993," Cheeks continued. "I was the founder and pastor....In 2002, I left Unity Fellowship and continued as Inner Light Ministries ... an independent church in Washington, D.C. "Inner Light worships in a more African-American 'high praise' (manner)," Cheeks said. " ... I say it is 'radically inclusive,' with members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, heterosexual, couples and singles, and children. ... We have to keep knocking down walls and turning the walls into bridges. For me, if I focus only on African-Americans that are gay and lesbian, I am doing exactly what other people have done to us."

What would Cheeks want to be remembered for 50 years from now?

"That I gave it my best," Cheeks responded. "I gave it my best everyday to help people out. If I do that in any way I am blessed."

And what advice does Cheeks offer the younger SGL generation?

"Fall in love with yourself," Cheeks admonished. "... If you honestly love yourself, you won't let and accept people

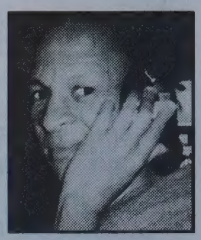
**See Black Gay History, page 64**

# Meet Your Neighbor

## Mary Hamlett

**Name:** Mary Hamlett
**Place where you were born:** Memphis, Tennessee
**How long have you lived in Memphis:** all my life
**Partnership status:** married 6 years (that's her on the left, name's La Paula)
**Sexual orientation:** lesbian
**Occupation:** grad student/social services worker
**Hobbies:** movies, traveling, reading and trivia
**Favorite Food:** any Oriental food
**Favorite Color:** blue
**Favorite Animal:** dinosaurs
**Favorite Singer:** Barry Manilow
**Favorite Song:** "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen
**Favorite Movie:** *The Other Sister*
**Favorite Restaurant:** J. Alexander's
**Favorite Drink:** Kilian's Red
**Favorite Thing About Memphis:** the cost of living; affordable real estate
**Least Favorite Thing About Memphis:** the level of racism and bigotry
**Finish this phrase:** My friends think I am "dependable and reliable."

# Diary of a DJ: Part II



**By DJ RON, contributing writer**

For five years we had a ball, but I began to do more drugs and work less.

I was beginning to live a double life. Insanity began to take over my mind and body. Reality was a thing of the past. By now, the Apartment Club was big business. It was at its capacity four nights out of the week. People crowded in from the Tri-State area.

The owner of the club, Dave, had purchased a new Lincoln, but I was slowly beginning to lose everything I had. Sex became abundant. I left with someone different every night, sometimes more than one person. I was throwing caution into the wind. Even the majority of the showcast were hooked on drugs and sex. Orgies were sometimes held in the club.

By the mid to late '80s, a new STD was introduced into the club scene. At the time, we weren't too concerned about the disease. Penicillin kills everything, or so we thought. More clubs began to spring up in the city. A list of them consisted of The Other Side, Oops, 14K, Reflections and The Hideaway. George's relocated on Front Street and changed its name to GDI. With all of these grand openings, this new disease became more prevalent.

Not only was a new illness introduced but new drugs became more prevalent. Rush and speed became popular on the club scene, but the most prominent was cocaine, especially crack cocaine. It was the "in thing." Everyone would gather before and after leaving the club to "get their mind together."

By the early '90s, the new disease (AIDS) began taking lives rapidly. Basically, the only medicines available were antibiotics and AZT. They seemed to only speed up the process of the illness.

With all the sudden deaths, people began to use drugs more frequently, even me. I had lost two of my closest friends to the virus and it bothered me so much; I turned more and more to cocaine. I knew that the possibility of me acquiring HIV was great since me and my closest friends slept with the same people. Like most people, I felt that what I didn't know wouldn't kill me. Of course, I was so wrong.

The next person I lost to the illness was Dave. He had a cold for over a year. Not only that, he had to deal with my drug problem and the opening of a new club called Escape. It became too much for him. He eventually visited a doctor and discovered he had Tuberculosis. Dave became so ill that he never recovered.

Other people tried to manage the club, but most of the customers had relocated to the new club.

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I turned to drugs even more. I eventually withdrew from the club scene, and found comfort in drugs. I was lost in the drug scene for years and couldn't see my way clear. Despair and grief became my companions. I found my only solitude in jail.

One day I ran into a longtime friend who was now the owner of a new club, N-cognito. He offered me a job and I accepted. I guess he saw something in me that I couldn't see in myself. I had lost most of my friends to AIDS and drugs and my new associates were only using me for what I had to offer.

I began working at N-cognito, but drugs still dominated my life. It became noticeable to the employees who had befriended me. I tried to conceal my problem but I started to miss more and more days from work. The owner of the club, "T," was losing patience with me, yet he continued to stand by me. During the next few years, I had periods of sobriety, but I continued to find comfort in drugs and sex.

I took a leave of absence from N-cognito to get my head together, but I only got worse. A year had passed, another new club opened and I started spinning records there, but I just didn't feel comfortable. Club Liquid only lasted for a few months. Depression was begining to take over and I couldn't fight it. I even thought of just throwing in the towel. On that very day I thought of suicide, I ran into Terryl, owner of N-cognito and I guess he saw the despair in my eyes and offered me another position.

Terryl reminds me of Dave in certain ways. He's very concerned for his friends and family. He has gotten me over a lot of difficulties in my life. I thank God for him and the other employees at N-cognito, including Ladybug. What I have learned through all of this is that in your darkest hour, God will always prevail.

I'm still presently employed at N-cognito looking forward to the move to the new club.

The message I want to give to the *Family & Friends* readers is that we are never alone; someone is always watching over us and loves us. Many of us find comfort and acceptance in the club scene, but we shouldn't let that be our whole life. We sometimes tend to get caught up in the glitter and glamour of the night life, but along with the excitement, comes danger and disappointments. Enjoy your life, but be careful and thoughtful of others. This is DJ Ron signing out. Love to all my friends.

P.S. I also am living with the virus and have been for 10 years and I'm okay with that. I have family and friends who care for me and that are concerned for my well-being. Agencies like Friends For Life give me a lot of moral support. I'm never alone, even when I think I am.

*(Editor's Note: Dairy of a DJ, Part I was published in the December 2002, issue of* Family & Friends *magazine. If you missed that issue and would like one mailed to you, call the* Family & Friends *office at (901) 682-2669.)*

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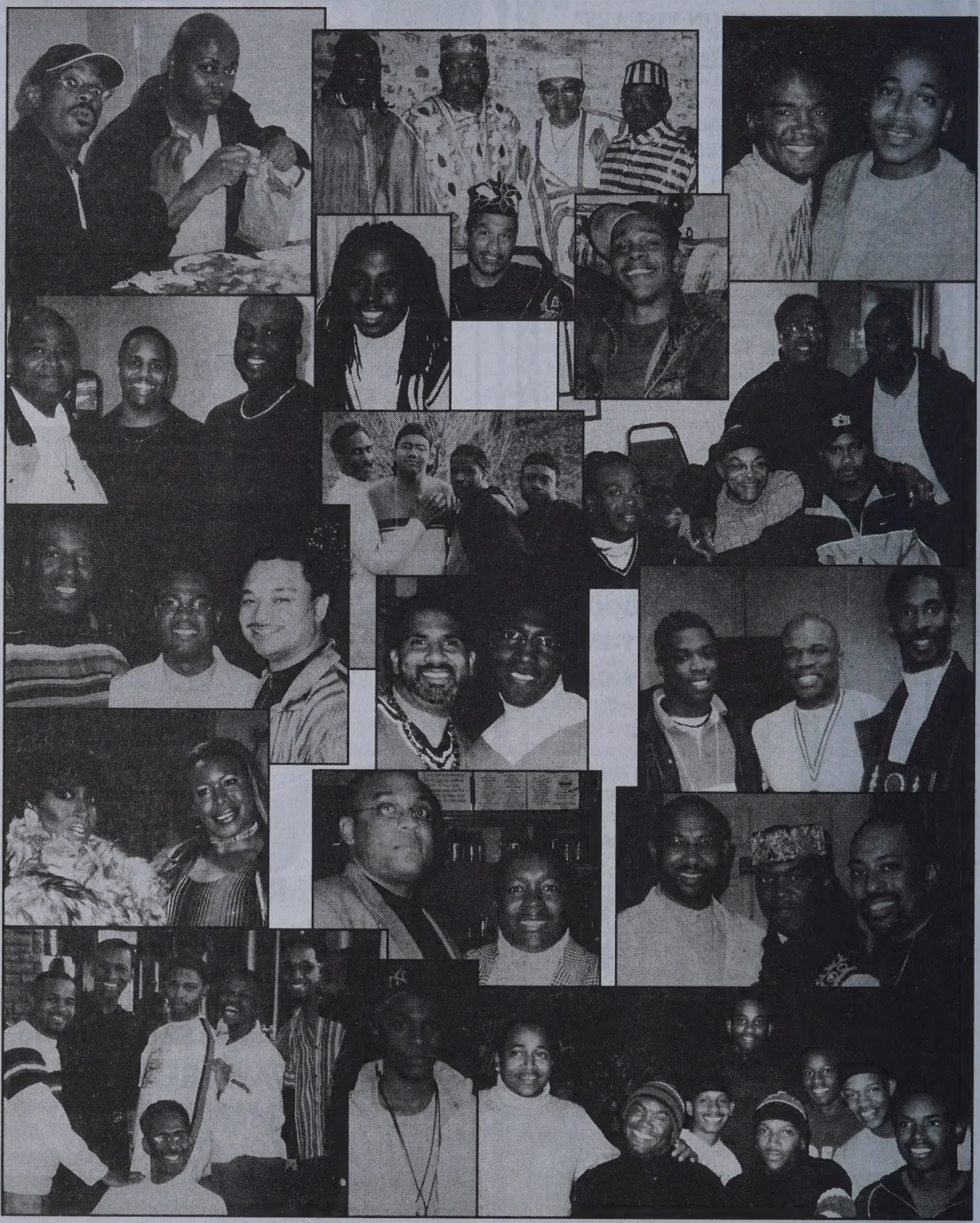
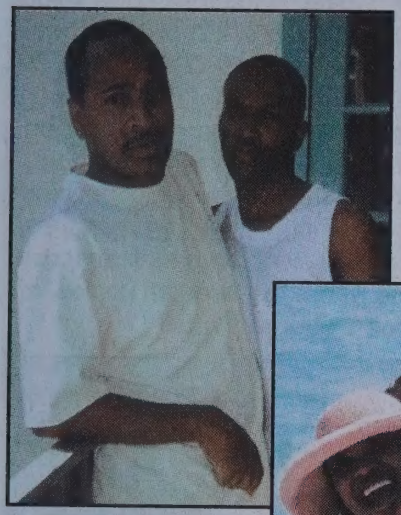
# DIXIE FLETCHER'S 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY





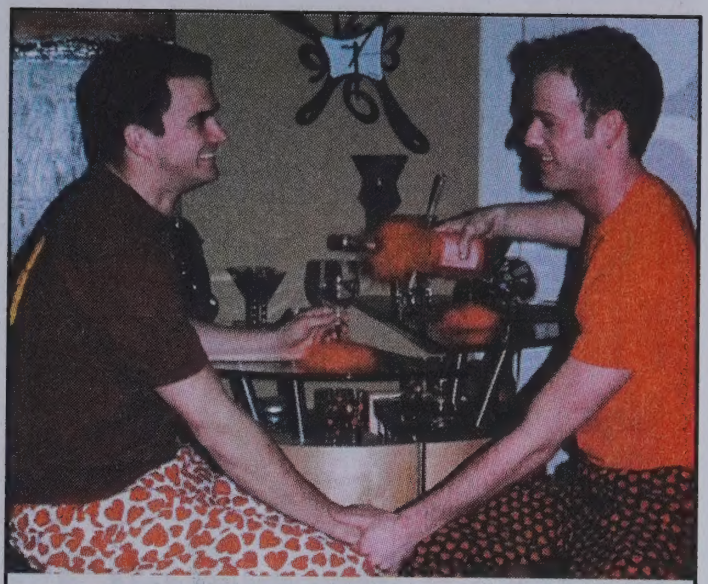
Terryl & Tony

Nicole & Felicia

Jonathan & D.

Shari & Stacey

Anthony's Gay White Mamas



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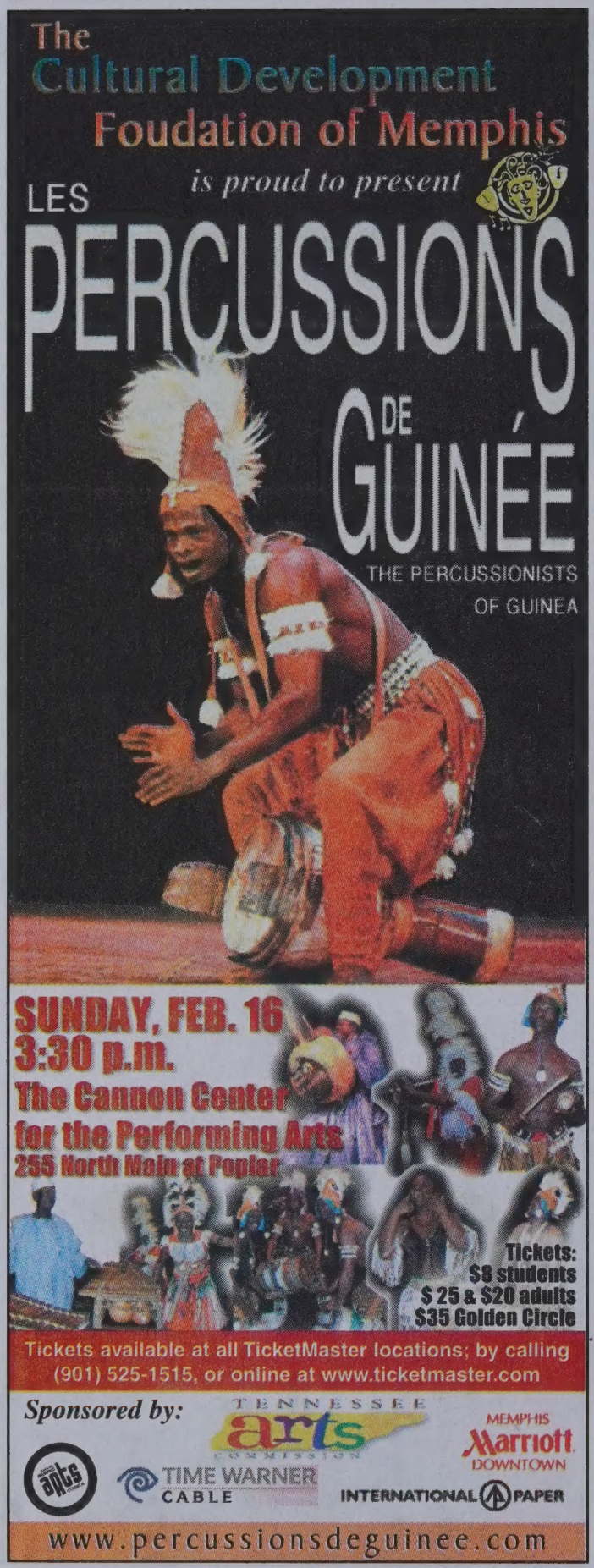


# Black Gay History

from page 59

treating you just anyway. Educate yourself and give it your best. If you don't love yourself, you will drink and drive, have unprotected sex, settle for second best and stay in abusive relationships.

"Find out what your passion is and live your passion," he added. "Whatever your dream is, know that you can."

Cheeks offered one more token of advice to our readers: "We need to support each other, then we break these cycles of depression and oppression. Congratulate people on their successes. That is where the strength comes in."

**Chief Justice Deborah Batts**

Deborah Batts is the nation's first openly lesbian African-American federal judge. Her portrait now hangs in the halls of The Harvard Law School.

Photo courtesy of The Harvard University News Office

**Deborah Batts**

Judge Batts was graduated from Radcliffe in 1969, and from Harvard Law School in 1972. She first clerked for a federal judge then joined Cravath, Swaine & Moore as a litigator for six years. She was an assistant U.S. attorney in New York for five years before taking a position at Fordham University in 1994, where she taught property and family law courses.

That same year, former President Bill Clinton nominated Batts for a judicial seat. Her nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate with no challenges. In June of 1994, she was sworn in as a United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

"Being a lesbian is definitely part of my life," she told the *Washington Blade*, " ... It is also one of many parts of my life. I am also a very devoted mother, I'm an attorney, a former prosecutor, and I'm an African American. If people assume any one of these aspects is going to predominate it would create a problem."

"Lawyers practicing before Judge Batts have found her intellectually curious, thoughtful and fair," written at www.law.harvard.edu/news.

Judge Batts's portrait, by notable artist Simmie Knox of Silver Spring, Md., was presented to the Harvard Law School by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni/ae Committee of the Harvard Law School, Oct. 27, 2001. Of the 323 portraits and busts now at the Law School, seven are of African-Americans, six are of women. Batts is the first openly gay graduate whose portrait hangs at HLS.

*(Editor's Note:* Family & Friends *requested an interview with Judge Batts, but was unable to arrange such.)*

*"I made myself platinum, but I was born a dirty blonde."*

**- Mae West**

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# Committed Couples of Color plan first event

Seeing a need in the Memphis gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, Dexter and Gaylon St. John have started a new group, Committed Couples of Color (CCC).

The new organization will host a kick-off party, "A Valentine Lover's Gathering" on Friday, Feb. 14, beginning at 8 p.m. at Club Paragon, 2865 Walnut Grove Road. Admission is $5 per person, with $2 of the admission price being donated to HIV/AIDS awareness and the Memphis Black SGL Alliance. Both couples and singles are encouraged to attend.

The couple told *Family & Friends*, "We want to see couples together."

"We met 10 years ago at a party at my house," Gaylon said, explaining how he and Dexter met. "We spoke briefly for 10 years." However, they didn't actually go out on a date until just last year when Gaylon was visiting Isaac Hayes Music, Food, Passion where Dexter was an employee. Dexter asked Gaylon out and the two have been committed ever since.

"We realized we are so close ... and we wanted to share this with other people; help them work things out," Gaylon continued. "We want to mentor younger couples; (we've noticed) they watch us and want to be like us."

"We know friends that are just living together as couples," Dexter added, "and we want them to recognize all the good parts of being together and spend more time together. ... We have so much fun.

"Some couples come out (to the clubs) but rarely are together," Dexter said. "If you didn't know they were together you wouldn't know they were a couple. They split up at the door."

Dexter and Gaylon are quick to point out that CCC is for the entire rainbow of same-gender-loving individuals, black and white included.

The mission of CCC is to give support to those in same-gender relationships; provide "marital" consultation to the black same-gender-loving community; create new ways of supporting (the) community; teach the SGL community how to be happy with one mate; show the world that to be "gay" is not being promiscuous, and to act as a beacon of hope for the lonely.

CCC is sponsored by The Memphis Black Same-Gender-Loving Alliance.

For more information, call (901) 274-0163.

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"Loved By Many ...

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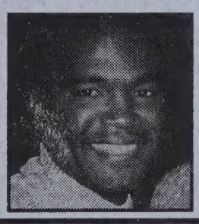
**Thanks so much to the Same-Gender-Loving Community nationwide for the love you expressed to me and my family during the transition period of my mother.**

*Club N-Cognito, Showcast and Staff • Memphis Black SGL Alliance • International Federation of Black Prides and Artists • Family & Friends Magazine • Holy Trinity Community Church • New Directions MSM Department • Friends For Life • Brothers United International Network of Tennessee • My (SGL) chil-ren, relatives and friends.*



— 1st Lady/ Lady Bug/Mother
A.R.G. Hardaway

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**2xLAMBDA**, a program of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, is open to both men and women, ages 20 to 29, (901) 223-3331

**B.G.A.L.A., (University of Memphis Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Association)**, BGALA is a social, political and eduational organization,e-mail: BGALA@cc.Memphis.edu, www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

**COTTON PICKIN' SQUARES–MEMPHIS,** (901) 272-2116, Meets Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 499 Patterson (Near The University of Memphis), Square dancing social group

**LIFE IN THE MEDIAN**, a program of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, is open to men and women in their late 20s and beyond. (901) 857-8523

**MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (MAGY),** P.O. Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 335-6249, Peer support group for 13- to 21-year olds dealing with gay, lesbian, bisexual & gender issues, www.gaymemphis.com/magy

**MEMPHIS BEARS,** 1066 Wrenwood, Memphis, TN 38122, (901) 323-4773, Meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Ave., at 10 p.m. • MEN ONLY, Email: info@memphis-bears.com,web: www.memphisbears.com

**MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER**, P.O. Box 41074, Memphis, TN 38174, (901) 324-GAYS (4297), townhall meetings the first Sunday of every month, www.mglcc.org

**MEMPHIS PRIDE INC.,** P.O. Box 111265, Memphis, TN 38111-1265, email: MemphisPride2003@aol.com, Monthly open meetings have been suspended indefinitely

**MIRROR IMAGE,** P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052, A support group for trans individuals meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at 7 p.m., For more information and locations of meetings, write or email at memphisgroup@usa.com

**MYSTIC KREWE OF APHRODITE,** a social and service organization, women only, P.O. Box 11483, Memphis, TN 38111-1483, email:aphroditemem@yahoo.com, website: www.geocities.com/aphroditemem

**P.F.L.A.G., (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays),** (901) 754-3136, Support meetings for parents, family and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, email: amdrake@mem.po.com

**TENNESSEE LEATHER TRIBE**, (901) 357-1921, Club nights and meetings vary; contact for info – men and women welcome, www.tnleathertribe.org, email: info@tnleather-tribe.org

**TSARUS MEMPHIS**, P.O. Box 41082, Memphis, TN 38174, (901) 276-4132, Levi-leather club meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Aveune, at 10 p.m. • MEN ONLY, Email: info@tsarus.org, website: www.tsarus.org

**MEMPHIS BLACK SGL ALLIANCE,** 28 North Claybrook, Memphis, TN 38104, (901)274-0163, Cultural, educational, community awareness organization.

## MISSISSIPPI

**GLBA OF OLE MISS**, P.O. Box 3541, University, MS 38677, (662) 915-7049, email: glba@olemiss.edu

**GLBF**, P.O. Box 233, MS State, MS 39762, (662) 325-8241, email: glbf@org.msstate.edu, www.msstate.edu/org/glbf

**USM GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE**, email:GSAlliance@usm.edu or thespy_ms @yahoo.com, website: www.usm.edu/gsa

## ARKANSAS

**SAFE HARBOR NEA**, A confidential support and social group for GLBT individuals, ages 25 and under, in northeast Arkansas., (870) 932-6545, P.O. Box 226, Jonesboro, AR 72403, website: www.safe-harbor-nea.netfirms.com

## WHOLENESS continued

**FEAST FOR FRIENDS DINNER**, (901) 272-0855, Dinner is served the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at St. John's United Methodist Church, Bellevue @ Peabody, beginning at 6 p.m.

**MEMPHIS REGIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD**, 1407 Union Avenue Extended, 3rd Floor (901) 725-1717, HIV & STD testing, gynecological preventive care

**MEMPHIS HIV FAMILY CARE NETWORK**, 880 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN, (901) 545-8265, Free comprehensive, supportive services and voc/rehab services to the HIV-positive

**NICOTINE ANONYMOUS MEETING,** Saturdays 10 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church, 4488 Poplar Avenue. (901) 278-6234

**ORORO-CROSSROADS**, (901) 743-2900, Support group for African-American, same-gender-loving men, For information, contact James at (901) 529-9549

**THE POSITIVE LIVING CENTER**, 1000 South Cooper Street, Memphis, TN, (901) 726-6022 • Tuesday–Saturday, noon to 8 p.m. Provides opportunities for persons affected by HIV/AIDS to manage the disease in a holistic manner, free of charge.

**WELLNESS CENTER AT HTCC**, 3430 Summer Avenue, Memphis, TN 38122, (901) 754-9423 OR (901) 320-9376, Offers a support program for gay parents and a support program for married men dealing with sexual identity.

**YWCA ENCORE**, MedPlex, 880 Madison Avenue, (901) 754-4356, Support group for lesbians with breast cancer meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon

**SERIOUS SOBER OPEN AA MEETING**, (an open men & women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting), Meets each Friday at 8 p.m. at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 499 Patterson (near The University of Memphis), (901) 324-9200

## SPIRITUAL

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**INTEGRITY MEMPHIS**, 102 N. Second Street, Memphis, TN 38103, (901) 525-6602, People of all faiths and ideologies are welcome, Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church. Dinner at 7 p.m., www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html

**LAMBDA CIRCLE**, (901) 278-6786, Open to all GLBT persons of faith to join in an affirming time of prayer, Bible study and discussion., Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper Street.

### OTHER LOCALES

**CAMP SISTER SPIRIT**, P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464, Feminist education/cultural/retreat center, www.campsisterspirit.com, email: sisterspir@aol.com

**MCC OF THE RAINBOW**, 5565 Robinson Rd. Ext., Ste. Q, Jackson, MS 39204, (601) 372-6644, Sunday Service at 11:30 a.m.

## POLITICAL

### TENNESSEE

**EQUALITY TENNESSEE**, P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124 • 901-327-2677, A civil rights group that promotes equality and combats prejudice and discrimination among GLBT persons, email: westregion@equalitytennesse.org,website: www.equalitytennessee.org

### MISSISSIPPI

**EQUALITY MISSISSIPPI**, P.O. Box 6021, Jackson, MS 39288-6021, (601) 936-7673, email: EqualityMS@EqualityMS.org, website: www.EqualityMS.org

## MEDICAL

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

#### Doctors

**DR. DANIEL P. MARSHALL, M.D.**, general practioner, 515 North Highland, (901) 323-1200

#### Optometrists

**DRS. MICHAEL D. WEINBERG & JASON DUNCAN at THE ECLECTIC EYE**, 242 South Cooper Street, (901) 276-EYES (3937)

#### Vetrinarians

**BARBARA WOWK, DVM, AT EAST PARK ANIMAL HOSPITAL**, 3698 Summer Avenue, Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Wed. & Sat. 8 a.m.-noon, (901) 324-9186 for an appointment

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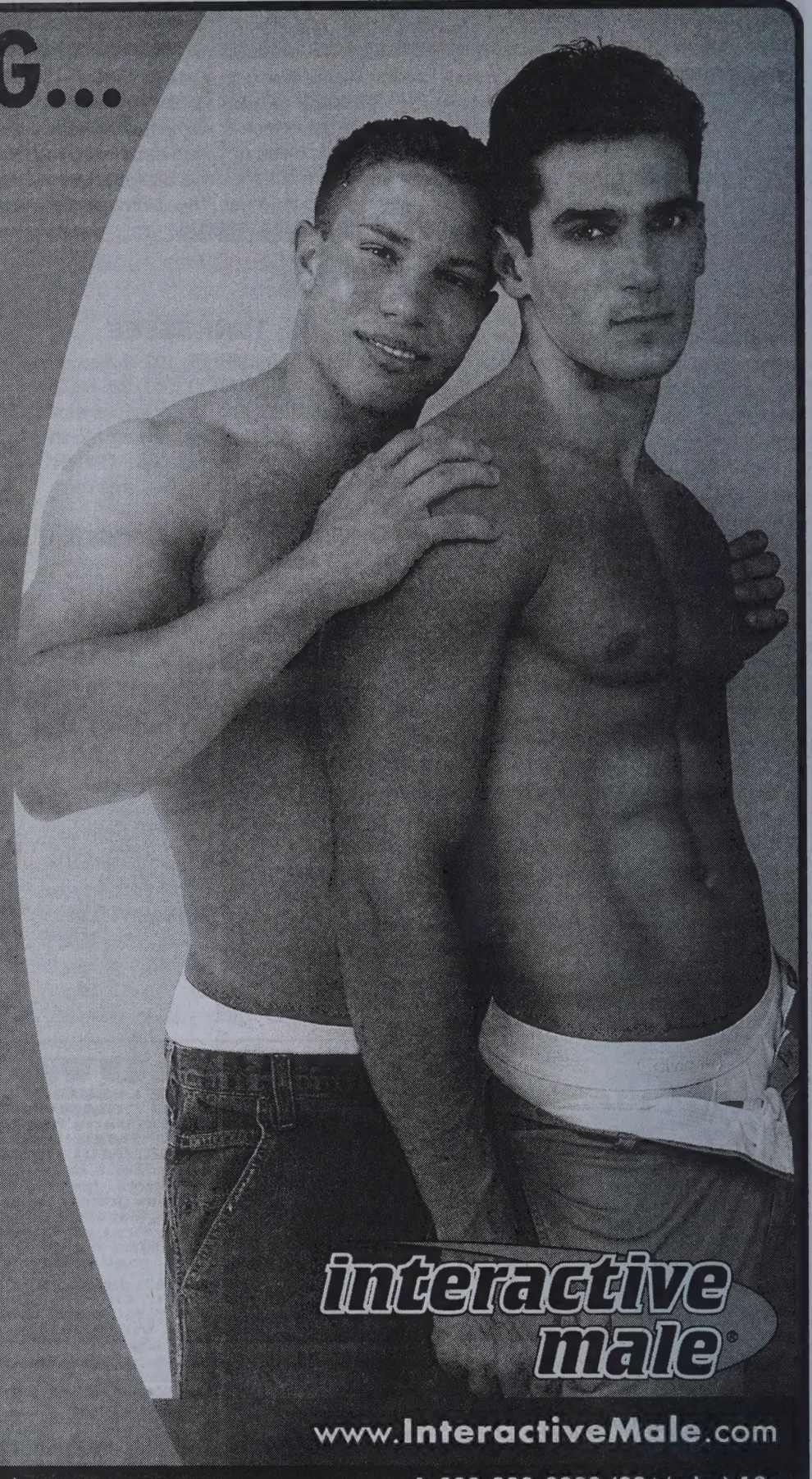

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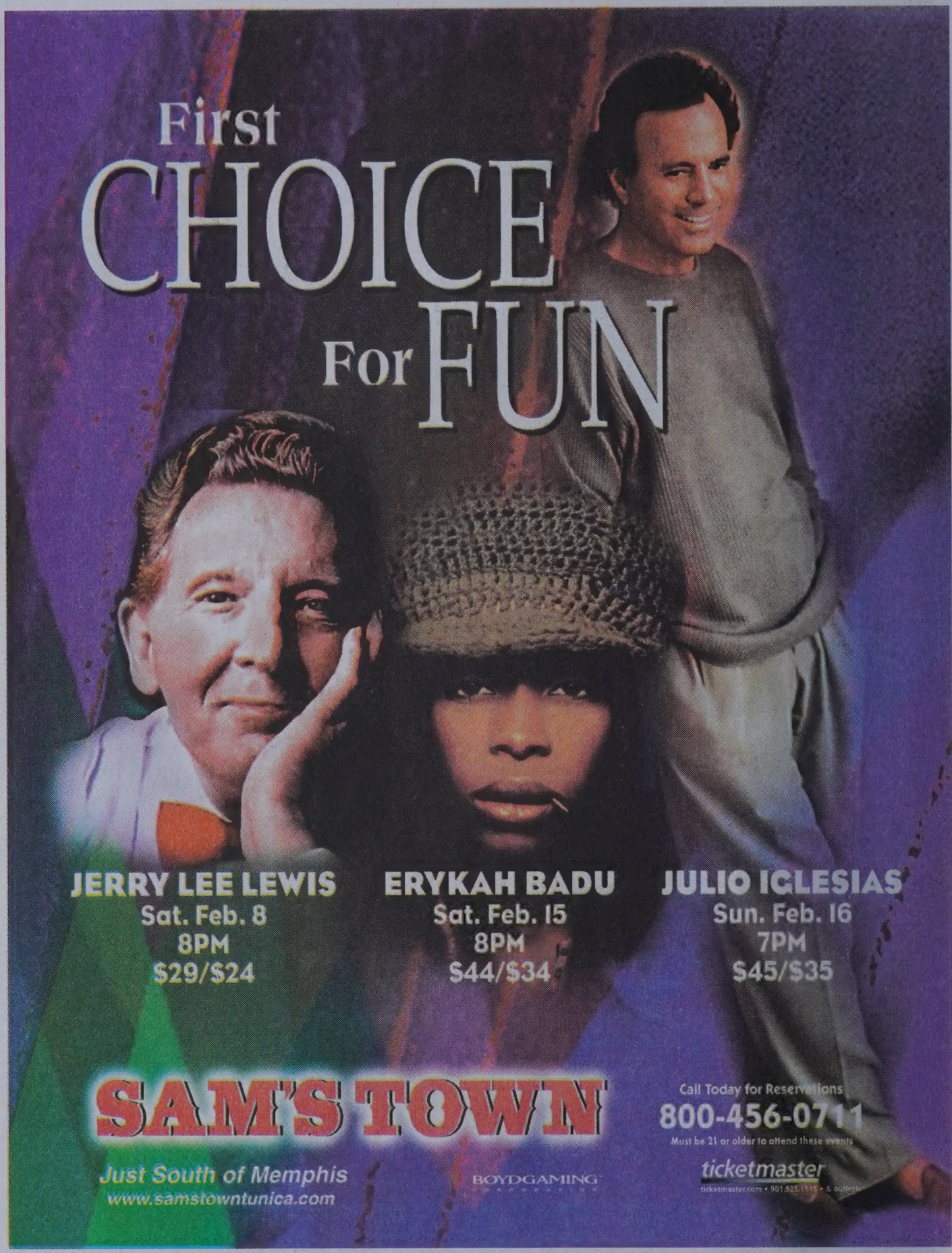
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